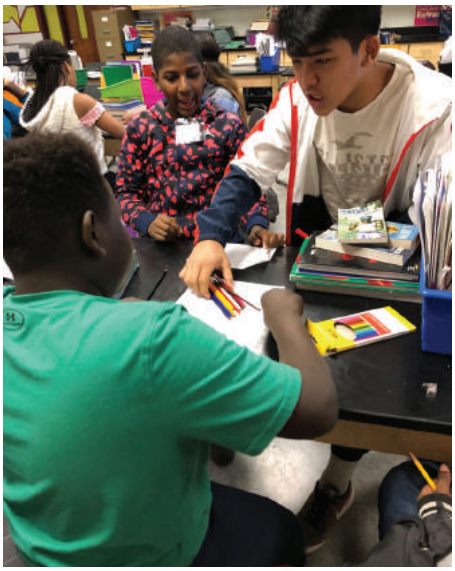

March 26, 2019

THE BRIGHT SIDE

Lansing School District

MARCH IS READING MONTH

Many noteworthy leaders from across Lansing visited classrooms this month to share favorite stories with students.

Policymakers, judges, school board members, and other Lansing VIPs helped encourage good reading habits among Lansing youngsters.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Central State University Visit: *CSU performers visited the Dwight Rich School of the Arts for collaboration, excitement and song. Smiles and music were everywhere!*

March 26

- PCAC Meeting 6:30 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.

March 27

- Late Start Wednesday

March 29

- No School–Spring Break Begins

April 8

- School Resumes

April 11

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

April 25

- Lansing Promise Annual Dinner

Lansing School Board, Other VIPs Preview New Eastern High School Building

The Lansing School District board of education and other community VIP's went on a very special tour of the new Eastern High School building on March 14.

The facility, formerly known as Pattengill Academy, is being repurposed into a state-of-the-art high school that will focus on Biotechnical and International Baccalaureate (IB) studies.

"Everything is on time and under budget," said Lansing superintendent Yvonne Caamal Canul. "We are so blessed to have the Lansing community be this supportive, so we can build new structures and add onto things to create a great new learning environment for our kids, who so deserve it."

The repurposed facility also will include a brand-new athletic complex near the current Eastern, High School, allowing Eastern to host regional sporting events.

"The overhaul is just amazing," said Eastern Principal Marcelle Carruthers. "I can't wait to tell our kids because they are so excited, so I'm keeping it a secret from them."

Around 24 people toured the facility.

District Video Shares Information About "Securing the Pathways" Millage

A brand-new informational video released by the Lansing School District this week highlights the needs that have prompted a May 7 ballot proposal.

The video, developed by district staff in partnership with Lansing-based Ahptic Productions, tells the story of a district that's made tremendous progress in recent years.

"Graduation rates are back up. Student test scores are improving. The finances are being well cared for," says Lansing mayor Andy Schor in the opening minutes of the video. "Students and families are excited and engaged. And – most important of all – people like me are choosing Lansing again."

But, as the video details, some school building needs remain unmet.

Rich Gutierrez, principal at Lewton Spanish Immersion, is shown detailing the infrastructure needs in his building.

"Our team has been working to keep this boiler going for a long time. It's 60 years old, the same age as this building, and the only place we can get parts for it now is on eBay," Gutierrez says.

Other district staff and board members provide details about important needs facing the district.

"First, we'll make sure all Lansing students – not just those in our newest schools – will be equally safe and protected by keyless entry points and electronic security cameras," says board treasurer Gabrielle Lawrence. "Roofs, boilers, and other weak infrastructure will be repaired or replaced to ensure air quality, as well as an overall reduction in our district's energy use."

To help address these challenges, the district is asking voters to consider a three-mill boost over a 10-year period.

"This is different than the Lansing Pathway Promise bond approved by voters in 2016," said Lansing superintendent Yvonne Caamal Canul. "That was more than building maintenance– it was an entirely new educational vision. It was an important step forward, but it didn't come close to addressing the infrastructure issues we face. Our buildings are 60 years old, on average– which means we still have much more to do to keep Lansing's momentum going in the right direction for students."

The "Securing the Pathways" millage video is available on the district's website.

Mayor Andy Schor
Mayor, City of Lansing

Rachel Lewis
President, Lansing Board of Education

Yvonne Caamal Canul
Superintendent, Lansing School District

New Teacher Network Marks Midpoint of School Year

On Saturday, March 2, 130 new teachers and their mentors gathered to "reflect, refresh, and rejuvenate" during the New Teacher Network Midyear Celebration.

The New Teacher Network is a program that has been created to support teachers in their first three years of teaching, as well as the mentors that work with them.

The goals of the event were to:

- Support teachers in reconnecting with their why—as in "why did I become an educator?"
- Broaden and strengthen teacher support networks.
- Ensure that teachers feel valued and supported as a professional.

The day began with a wonderful welcome from Superintendent Yvonne Caamal Canul focused on the art of teaching. Teachers then participated in journaling and sharing activities about what inspired them to become educators.

This was followed by inspirational speaker William Martinez, who shared his story about growing up in a deaf household and how his 8th grade music teacher helped him discover his voice through music. William's story, "SIGNING THE SONG" celebrates and honors the impact that parents and teachers have on each child's life. The educators laughed, cried, and learned American Sign Language (ASL) during this moving experience.

In the afternoon, teachers had the opportunity to hear from their fellow colleagues through a teacher panel representing grades K–12. The panel was moderated by Lansing Schools Education Association President, Chuck Alberts, who asked questions submitted by new teachers.

There was also a wonderful opportunity for participants to engage in discussion with teachers from across the district in similar grade levels or subject areas. They shared areas of pride, collaborated on challenges, and swapped resource ideas.

The day closed with a focus on self-care, as teachers were guided through some basic breathing and stretching by Ellen Larson, owner of AM Yoga.

Teachers used the following words to describe their day together: inspirational, supported, energized, connected, new ideas, valued, and appreciated. With this type of positive feedback from all the teachers, the New Teacher Network Midyear Celebration will likely become an annual event.

Yvonne Caamal Canul
New Teacher Network Midwest Celebration

Lansing Elementary Students Become Part of "One World" Initiative

In 2018, Attwood New Tech Magnet School, Gardner International Magnet School, Lewton Spanish/Global, and Post Oak International Baccalaureate/Chinese became members of a global community of schools under an international organization called One World.

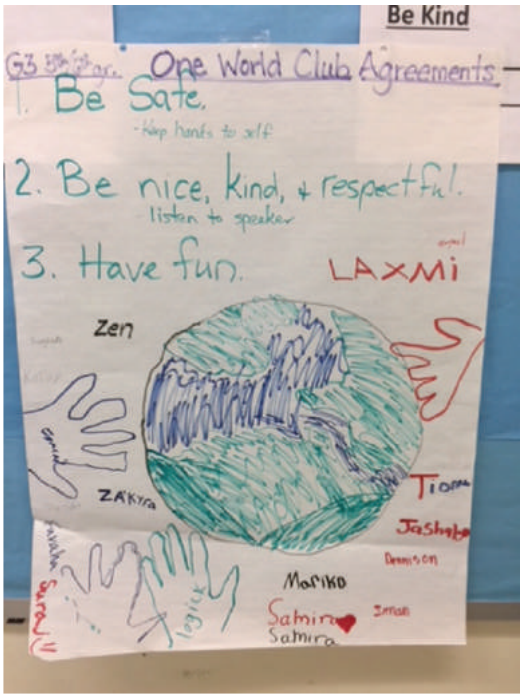
Founded by Joe Carvin, One World supports efforts on character building for youth to generate civic commitment to school, local, national and global communities. One World currently has over 60 clubs in the United States, South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia.

During the past two years, the district's Rewarding Educator Achievement and Performance (REAP) grant has assisted staff from all four schools to take part in think tanks at Harvard University and Port Chester, New York.

Dr. Fernando Reimers, a Harvard University professor, is guiding Lansing's schools in developing clubs, service learning projects, and integration of global citizen competencies in the day-to-day curriculum. He also is linking the four schools with other schools throughout the world.

"This initiative has strengthened our district's base knowledge on global education," said Sergio Keck, director of special populations and programs for the Lansing School District. "It has also allowed us to connect the already existing activities in our school district that already reflect how diverse and global the Lansing School District has become.

"We are excited to be part of this 21st century learning opportunity!"



Billboards Feature Lansing Educators

Six Lansing School District educators spent some well-deserved time in the limelight during March. Their names and images featured on a series of local billboards promoting the district's 2019 Career Fair.

The signs were placed in high-profile locations across greater Lansing, including Cedar Street and I-496, M-43 and M-100 in Grand Ledge, the intersection of Michigan Avenue and Cedar Street, and I-496 and Pennsylvania Avenue.

Featured educators included:

- Shane Dickerson, teacher and coach
- Christopher Ellis, first grade teacher at Dwight Rich School of the Arts
- Robyne Muray, English arts teacher at Eastern High School
- Circe Chavez-Rodriguez, 3rd grade teacher at Cumberland Elementary School
- Cathleen Weaver, visual and performing arts focus teacher at Dwight Rich School of the Arts
- Ezekiel Moreno, guidance counselor at Everett High School

"To build up interest in the Career Fair, we decided to showcase a group of educators that truly reflect who we are as a district," said Lansing superintendent Yvonne Caamal Canul. "We look forward to welcoming new educators and staff to our dynamic team of professionals in the months and years ahead."

Although this year's Career Fair has passed, individuals interested in learning more about employment with the Lansing School District can visit this link to see a listing of available positions.

Everett Student Takes His Seat at the State Capitol

Everett High School junior Nick Zande represented the Lansing School District at the Capitol February 21–24 at the YMCA Michigan Youth in Government (MYIG) conference. This is the first time since the late 90s that the Lansing School District has been represented at the conference.

Zande joined more than 600 students from around the state that served as legislators, lobbyists, lawyers and press corps reporters during the three-day conference.

Working with peers, students developed bills, shared ideas and grew as leaders. Zande was a representative of the House during the program and wrote a bill about using tax revenue from newly legalized marijuana sales to fund fixing the roads in the state of Michigan.

YMCA MYIG students have created legislation in the past that has been adopted statewide, including the anti-bullying law signed by Gov. Snyder in 2011 and vertical licenses for drivers under 21.

YMCA MYIG is a yearlong program for middle and high school students interested in government and leadership development. The middle school conference takes place in November and the high school conference takes place in February.

Leading up to the high school conference, students study the legislative process and research public policy issues. Students can campaign to be elected as speaker of the House, lieutenant governor or governor, or can fill several other leadership positions across the program. Students taking part in the Model Judiciary program study the judicial process and research a civil or criminal court case to argue at the conference competition.

Other professions students could choose to explore at the conference include lobbyist, press, governor's cabinet or the national issues program.

YMCA Michigan Youth in Government is a branch of the State YMCA of Michigan and is open to all middle and high school students interested in government. Scholarships are available. The program began in 1948 and serves more than 2,000 students annually. Some of the program's alumni have gone on to careers in state government, the Foreign Service and the United Nations.

Be a Food Detective at the MSU Science Festival!

Why can't food be eaten after it's dropped on the floor? What makes dessert a bad breakfast choice? How does an apple get from a tree to the grocery store?

Elementary-aged students will solve answers to these questions and more at the MSU Science Festival. This learning activity is presented by Food@MSU, an initiative of MSU AgBioResearch to help us understand more about our food, where it comes from, and how it impacts our health, the planet and society.

Students from the Lansing School District are encouraged to join the event from 10:00 -10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 6 in the auditorium of the MSU Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB), located at 640 S. Shaw Lane in East Lansing.

Brad Day, professor in the MSU Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences, will ask questions to teams of kids working together to discover the answers and learn more about the food they eat.

Have any questions about this event or want to learn more about Food@MSU? Contact Food@MSU communications manager Alex Tekip at tekipale@msu.edu.

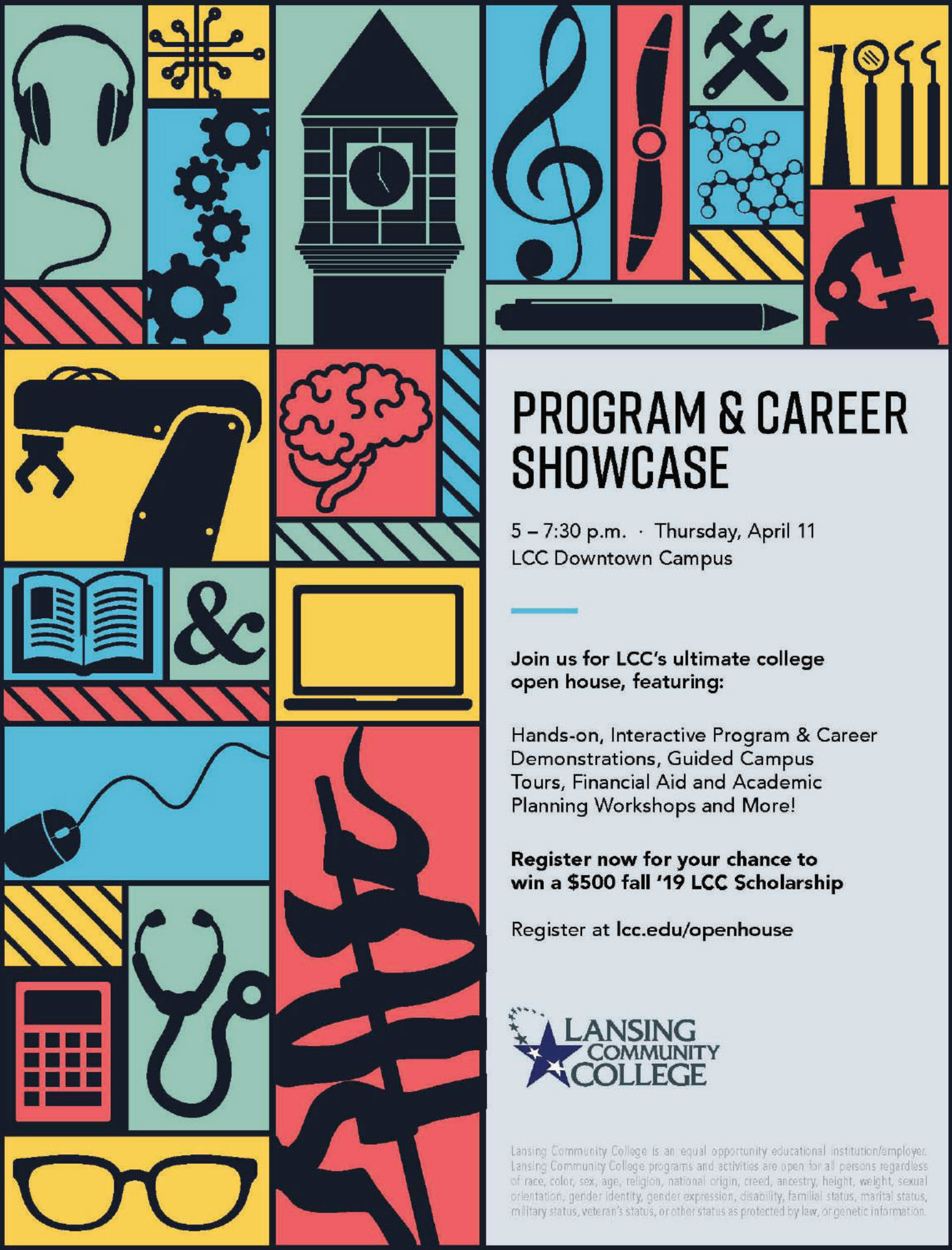
Lansing Students, Staff Wear Orange for Bullying Prevention

The Lansing School District has continued to build a culture and climate that supports all students, staff, and families. Our goal toward has been to create nurturing school communities that privilege the unique needs of students above all else, while emphasizing student voice and regard for student perspective.

To support student voice and our overall intention to create school communities that are safe psychologically, physically, and emotionally, the Lansing School District will begin an initiative that celebrates bully prevention and positive culture each month. Starting on April 17th and every 2nd Wednesday of each subsequent month (May 8th; September 11th, October 9th and so on), **we are asking all staff and students to support this effort by wearing the color orange–the national color for bully prevention**.

Our district community will celebrate the importance of concepts like respect, understanding, community, self-esteem, confidence, and empathy on a continued basis as we all work to eradicate any behavior that disenfranchises others.

Be sure to join us–wear orange!



PROGRAM & CAREER SHOWCASE

5 – 7:30 p.m. · Thursday, April 11
LCC Downtown Campus

Join us for LCC's ultimate college open house, featuring:

Hands-on, Interactive Program & Career Demonstrations, Guided Campus Tours, Financial Aid and Academic Planning Workshops and More!

Register now for your chance to win a $500 fall '19 LCC Scholarship

Register at **lcc.edu/openhouse**

LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Lansing Community College is an equal opportunity educational institution/employer. Lansing Community College programs and activities are open for all persons regardless of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, creed, ancestry, height, weight, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, familial status, marital status, military status, veteran's status, or other status as protected by law, or genetic information.

Lansing School District

Kristina Tokar
Assistant Director of Technology

A message from the Central Enrollment Office

Dear Lansing School District Family,

Thank you for choosing the Lansing School District. If you plan for your student to stay in their current school next year, they will automatically be placed there for the 2019-20 school year. You do not need to do anything! However, in the Lansing School District, you can choose your pathway. If you do want to choose a different school next year, it is best to apply as early as possible as space is limited at many of our schools. Our new online enrollment system has one common application for all schools, including Magnet schools.

If your student is a 3rd, 6th, or 8th grader finishing the last grade level available at their current school, you'll need to apply for a new school. Again, it is best to apply as early as possible.

The Main Round Application Period ends March 29.
Apply anywhere, anytime at www.lansingschools.net

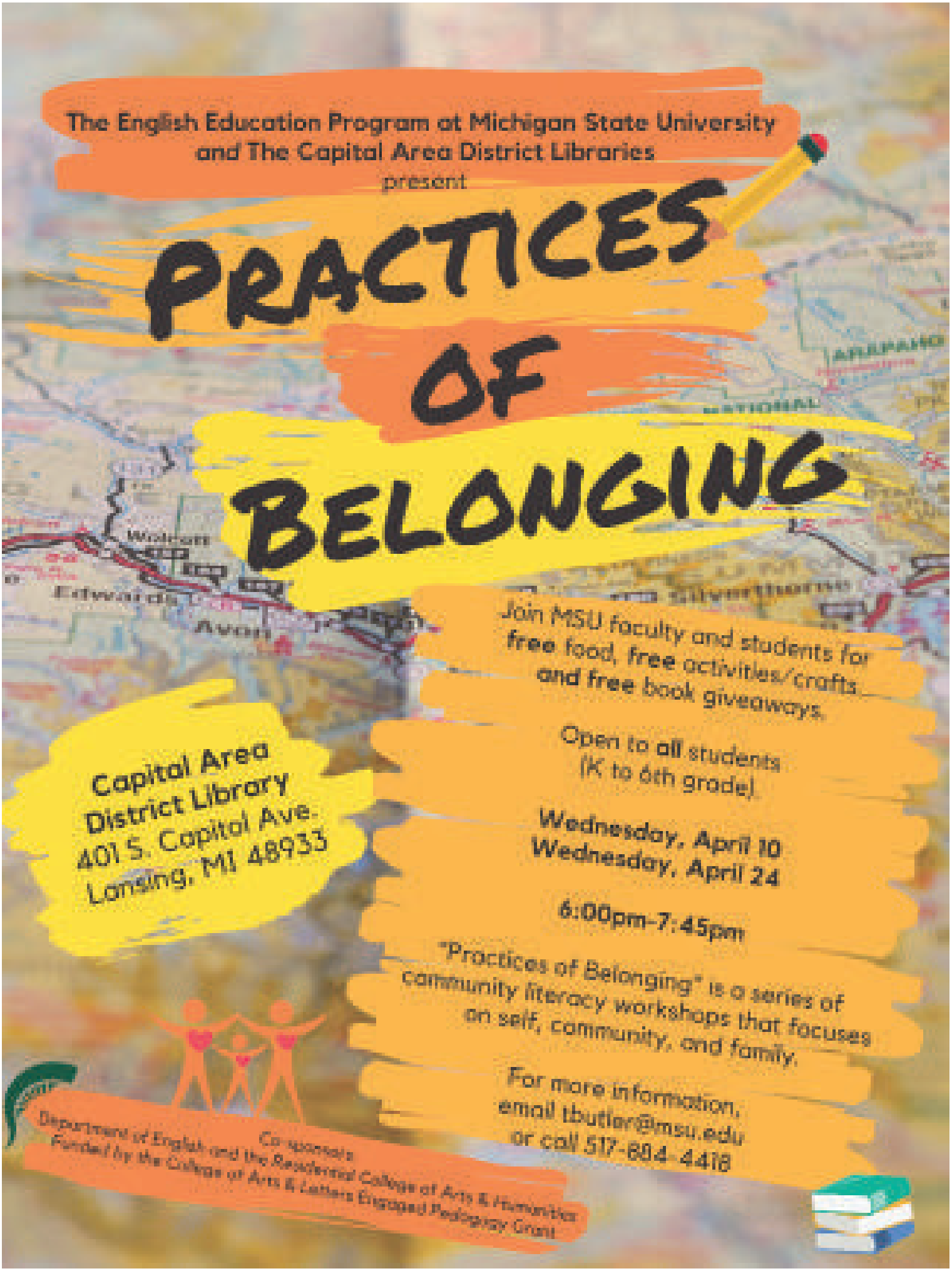
The Lansing School District offers in-district Schools of Choice. This means families may apply to any school within the Lansing School District regardless of where they live. We offer free bus transportation to all who live within the district.

We invite you to DREAM BIG and choose your pathway. We'll get you there! We encourage you to make any important school choices as soon as possible! Please contact us if you have questions.

Kristina Tokar | Assistant Director of Technology
Central Enrollment Office
517•755•1290 | Dr. Eva L. Evan Welcome Center | 2400 Pattengill Ave. | www.lansingschools.net/enroll

Home of the Lansing Pathway Promise

Lansing Pathway Promise


The English Education Program at Michigan State University
and The Capital Area District Libraries
present
PRACTICES OF BELONGING
Join MSU faculty and students for free food, free activities/crafts, and free book giveaways.
Open to all students (K to 6th grade)
Capital Area District Library
401 S. Capital Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933
Wednesday, April 10
Wednesday, April 24
6:00pm-7:45pm
"Practices of Belonging" is a series of community literacy workshops that focuses on self, community, and family.
For more information, email tbutler@msu.edu or call 517-884-4418
Co-sponsored by the Department of English and the Residential College of Arts & Humanities
Funded by the College of Arts & Letters Engaged Pedagogy Grant

One of the many dignitaries and guests welcomed in the Lansing School District during our March Reading Month celebrations was Judge Amy Ronayne Krause, who sits on the 4th District Court of Appeals. In addition to showing off her robes and sharing inspiring information about her work in the law, Judge Krause read *I'm Gonna Like Me*—a book about self esteem written by Jamie Lee Curtis and Laura Cornell.

Lunch Time Tennis Lessons!

The Todd Martin Youth Leadership Foundation oversees lunch time tennis lessons for our students at Cavanaugh STEAM Elementary on Mondays and Wednesdays -11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays they provide lunch time tennis at Gardner International Magnet School from 10:45 a.m.–1:45 p.m.

On Fridays they provide lunch time tennis at Reo School from 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

CORRECTION

In the March 4 issue of *The Bright Side*, we inaccurately reported that an AED was placed in Lewton Elementary.

The AED was actually placed in Lyons Elementary.

We apologize for the error.