INCLUSIVITY & SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is every bit as much an inspiration for the people of America as he was a half-century ago. The principles for which he stood—peace, tolerance, duty, civility and action—remain guiding pillars for all of us.

As we begin our Black History Month celebrations, we remember the men and women who helped shape the pathways we walk together. Who among us today will step up to carry on the traditions that began with one man’s very important dream?

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 5
• Late Start Wednesday

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

February 9
• Lansing Schools Showcase
  12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
  Don Johnson Fieldhouse

February 12
• Late Start Wednesday

February 13
• Sex Education Advisory Board
  8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Cavanaugh cardinals: Third-grade students at Cavanaugh School create vibrant art featuring the red birds of winter!
Lansing students were among those commemorating the life and service of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on January 20 at the Lansing Center.

The 35th annual event was attended by numerous dignitaries and keynoted by Andrew Aydin on behalf of U.S. Rep. John Lewis (D-Georgia), who was too ill to attend.

International recording artist Ledisi also performed at the event.

This year’s theme, “There Comes a Time When Silence is Betrayal,” shaped the day’s celebrations, which were attended by more than 1,800 people. Lansing Mayor Andy Schor, East Lansing Mayor Ruth Beier, U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin, U.S. Sens. Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow, and Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist all spoke at the event.

Three Lansing School District students were recognized for their essays at a holiday luncheon at the Lansing Center.

Everett High School seniors Keyana Pugh and Chiffa Abdullah-Hassan earned $2,500 scholarship prizes for their essays.

Eastern eighth-grader Vickie Freemans also earned first place recognition, which came with a $500 prize.

Everett junior Tobi Robinson took home honors for her artwork in connection with the celebrations.
Cavanaugh Students Attend MSU Women’s Basketball Game

Approximately 300 Cavanaugh staff, students and families enjoyed a valuable opportunity to see the MSU women’s basketball team defeat Ohio State on January 16.

Tickets were provided by the MSU Athletic Department through the ‘Spartan Stars Initiative,’ which is intended to recognize students who demonstrate the qualities MSU players strive for:
- Leadership within their classes and schools
- Good grades with focus on good academic habits
- Giving back through community service, and
- Balancing school, outside activities and a dedication to family

Cavanaugh students stood for the pledge on the court, cheered on the team, and watched a thrilling halftime program complete with a boldly-lit stunt cyclist.
Lansing School District Equine Center Launches “Triple B” Pilot

The Lansing School District Equine Center has launched a new pilot program aimed at helping students address their own behavioral issues.

The “Triple B” program currently has seven students who come once a week for two hours each time. During each session, they complete a simple journal, or Bronco Book, which captures a number of things for them to think about and allows them a creative means for self-expression.

By working with the horses and being active on the land, the students will come to understand themselves more fully, learn to bear a higher degree of personal responsibility, and work to modify and manage their own behavior more effectively.

The program, which is slated to run for eight weeks, also includes chores, group games and other activities, opportunities to provide care for the animals, and encouragement.

“One of the major goals for this program is to provide something completely unique to students that may not be achieving self respect or effective communication in the classroom,” said Julie Vruggink, program manager. “They have a chance to come to a place involving a creature that is accepting, desires leadership and provides structure to do so.”
Three Lansing Magnet Schools Earn National Merit Awards

Magnet Schools of America (MSA) has formally recognized three Lansing School District programs with national merit awards.

Gardner International Magnet School has been honored as a “School of Excellence,” while Lewton Global Studies/Spanish Immersion Magnet School and J.W. Sexton STEM2 Early College Magnet School have been recognized as “Schools of Distinction.”

MSA’s National Merit Awards program honors the top magnet schools in the United States. These awards recognize magnet schools that demonstrate commitment to high academic standards, curriculum innovation, successful desegregation and diversity efforts, and consistent delivery of high quality educational services to all stakeholders.

“Our entire district is honored to have our magnet programs drawing national recognition,” said Lansing’s interim superintendent Sam Sinicropi. “It’s a reflection not just of who we are as a district and the work we do, but also of the principles of diversity and inclusion we seek to uphold each and every day.”

Magnet schools that are the highest ranked in the “excellence category” are eligible to receive monetary awards and the chance to be named the nation’s top Elementary, Secondary or New & Emerging Magnet School.

MSA is a national nonprofit professional education association whose members are schools and school districts. The association represents, and is a resource to, magnet schools, parents, teachers, school boards, administrators, business leaders, community organizations and institutions of higher education.
A Lansing School District program aimed at supporting the needs of local students combating homelessness has just received financial support from MAGNA International and its employees.

The Families Overcoming Rough Times (F.O.R.T.) Program is a new program that assists Lansing School District students who are living in temporary or inadequate living situations.

The F.O.R.T. Program assists qualified students with:

- Transportation to and from school from wherever the student is living
- Access to the free meals programs at the school
- Uniforms and clothing necessary for the child to attend and participate in school
- School supplies to the student
- Cap and gown so they may participate in graduation commencement
- Enrolling students within 24 hours even when the student does not have birth certificate and other vital record
- Many other needs that the student may need so that they may fully participate and achieve at school.

MAGNA employees made a contribution of $415, which was matched by the employer for a total of $830.

“This will help our program a lot,” said Rose Taphouse, who coordinates the program on behalf of the district.

If you or someone you know has children who attend school with the Lansing School District and are having a really rough time maintaining a permanent and adequate residence due to any situation beyond their control, please contact Rose Taphouse, Lansing School District Homeless Coordinator, at 517-755-2813 or contact the child's school to see if they qualify for the F.O.R.T. Program.
The final moments of Friday afternoon are slipping away at Eastern High School in Lansing, Mich., as announcements echo through the halls. As students stream through the doors, teacher Dee Halstead is rolling her supply cart to the library. Her workday is just ramping up.

So begins the National Public Radio (NPR) story highlighting the Lansing School District’s innovative Eastern Flex program, which allows high school students to take advantage of alternative scheduling and online learning opportunities.

The NPR story is one of several recent efforts to highlight the new program, which offers important benefits for teens working to support family, jobs, and other essential matters while still attending school.

But it is the research around teens and their need for adequate rest that makes the NPR story unique.

“I’m able to sleep in as long as I need to, so I always get like a good night’s rest,” says junior Jerome Tiel. “I’m able to just do more things with my day. I feel like this is one of the best changes in my life.”

To learn more about Lansing’s Eastern Flex program, click here.
The winter blahs have begun to set in for many Lansing families—gray skies and cold weather can be difficult for many in the region to bear.

For Wexford Montessori families, an annual “February Fling” tradition has helped combat the blues. This year, however, the tradition is getting a major face lift.

A new, revamped “Party with the Pack” will move the event from just a family dance to a new mix of activities all over the school. From movies and video games to dancing and karaoke, Wexford families can enjoy a wide array of enjoyable indoor adventures together.

The event will be held February 13 at the school.
Gardner International Magnet School Showcases Student Work at Event

More than 600 families took part in an International Night at Gardner International Magnet School on January 23, where they had opportunities to view student art, performances, writing, and more.

Each classroom and grade level was assigned a different country or region of the world. Students then carefully researched, analyzed and presented thoughtful projects showcasing not only the unique features of their assigned location, but also the cultural and social issues they face today.

It was an impressive evening that left students, families, and teachers feeling very connected not only to one another, but to a positive vision of the world we share.
In January, students from Pattengill Biotechnical Magnet School were able to experience new adventures at a camp at the Lansing School District’s own Ebersole Environmental Education and Conference Center.

The camp offered indoor and outdoor activities ranging from cross-country skiing and hiking to various hobbies, science projects and crafts.

The event allowed students of all backgrounds to experience nature and foster stronger interpersonal connections with their teachers and one another.
DREAM BIG! IT’S YOUR JOURNEY.
THE LANSING SCHOOL DISTRICT WE’LL GET YOU THERE.

EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL
Health Services
Human Services

EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL
Arts, Communications & Information Technologies

SEXTON HIGH SCHOOL
Engineering, Adv. Manufacturing
Insurance & Finance

DISTRICT SHOWCASE
FEB 9
12 - 4:00 P.M.
DON JOHNSON FIELD HOUSE
Pattengill students learned to program “coding critters” to help connect reading and technology. Students are able to read together and then code their characters to act out the story.

Riddle Elementary kindergartners displayed their polar bear art in a dynamic hallway setting that included both ice and heat. Congratulations to teacher Christina Lambert Powell for setting up this highly enjoyable showcase of her students’ amazing work!

Kindergartners at Post Oak Academy made paper robots as they worked to learn about bigger scientific concepts like shapes, force, push and pull.
Sexton students wowed audiences with their production of “Seeking Asylum” in January. The play delivered on its billing as a “fast-paced romp between imagination and reality, between laughter and tears....[that] tells a moving story on the values of love, friendship, truth and honesty.” Congratulations!

Kudos to the 17 newest members of the National Junior Honor Society at Woodcreek Montessori! Induction ceremonies were held in January, with cake and cookies provided to allow families to share in the achievements of these hardworking students.
This month, fourth-grade students at Sheridan Road STEM Magnet School learned about humans’ impact on the environment by being detectives and investigating some natural “crime scenes.” It’s a creative way to tackle a tough subject—and a lesson that’s sure to be remembered by all who took part.

After reading “The Snowy Day” by Ezra Jack Keats, Willow Elementary students used their senses to work with a texture table that was filled with freshly fallen snow and act out the story. As you can see, the room is filled mini scientists and students building their love for classic books!