Waterford Wave

Issue 5 | February 2020

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

The strategic planning process is underway, and I'm inviting you to help shape the future of WSD. Before our mission, vision, and goals are set, we need to hear from our stakeholders about our strengths, where we can improve, what challenges we face, and your vision for the district. There are community and staff forums for you to participate in or you can take a few minutes to complete a five-question **on-line survey**.
Click to view an **informational video**.

In other exciting news, WSD announced earlier this month that we will be asking our community to vote on a $150 million bond in May 2020. The bond would be a **ZERO tax rate increase for taxpayers**. It would fund the expansion of safety and security measures, upgrades to infrastructure and technology, replacement of items that have reached the end of their life expectancy, the construction of a new early childhood center, and renovations to classrooms and media centers to provide active learning spaces. I'll be sharing more information with you over the next several months, and you can also visit our website at **www.wsdmi.org** for further details.

Waterford Kettering LGI

February 25, 2020
4:30 PM- Staff Forum
6:00 PM- Community Forum

March 24, 2020
3:15 pm -Staff Forum
5:00 Pm-Community Forum

DURANT

Durant students are reading more than ever! Through a partnership with Oakland Schools and using Regional Assistance Grant funds, we were able to purchase over 1500 new fiction and non-fiction books as well as shelving to supply every Language Arts teacher with a high-interest, diverse classroom library.

GRAYSON

On February 14th, Grayson Elementary had their Valentine's Day parties and a Gym Grand Opening Celebration! They welcomed Grayson families into the brand new gym where students ate breakfast, listened to music, and did Valentine's Day activities.

HAVILAND

Haviland students were recognized during the third-grade reading awards assembly. The Waterford Rotary Club and Metro North Credit Union honored Scarlett Floyd and Jacob Steinbrick from Mrs. Fearn's third-grade class, and Myah Nelson from Mrs. Lennox's third/fourth split class. Each student received a $10 gift card to Target.

HOUGHTON

Volunteers started Manners Mondays in the lunchroom at Houghton. Students enjoyed pretty centerpieces, calm classical music, and conversation cards, while learning some important table manners from Table Talk by Julia Cook. They are excited to meet her at Houghton on April 15th.

KETTERING

On February 1st, with temperatures in the low 30's and snowflakes flying, Kettering's National Honor Society students participated in the 2020 Polar Plunge. In total, 22 students jumped into Lake Fenton, along with sponsor Mrs. Bandlow and Kettering teacher Mr. Maxfield. Thanks to the 30 students who attended the event, along with our other NHS sponsor, Ms. Snow, they were able to raise nearly $4000.00 for Special Olympics!

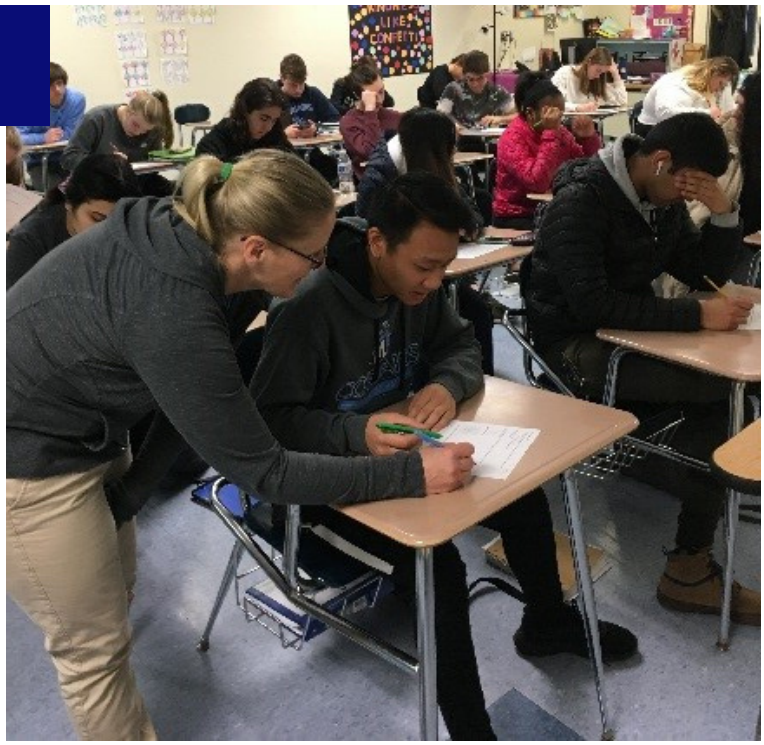
KNUDSEN

Knudsen fourth-graders presented facts about different countries and shared different foods during their Cultural Fair. Parents and students attended this fun learning opportunity on February 4th.

MASON

Mason Middle School continues to celebrate student success with a Pep Rally honoring our winter sports teams and completion of NWEA MAP tests.

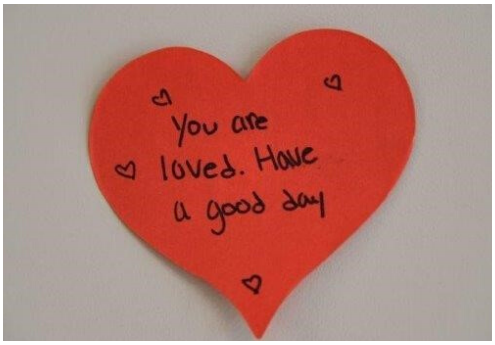
MOTT



Juniors are gearing up to take the SAT on April 14th! To help our students prepare, Mott is offering SAT Math Prep sessions for students on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 2:35 pm to 3:30 pm in room 301. For students looking to get additional help, the following websites are excellent resources: www.Collegeboard.com and www.khanacademy.org.

PIERCE

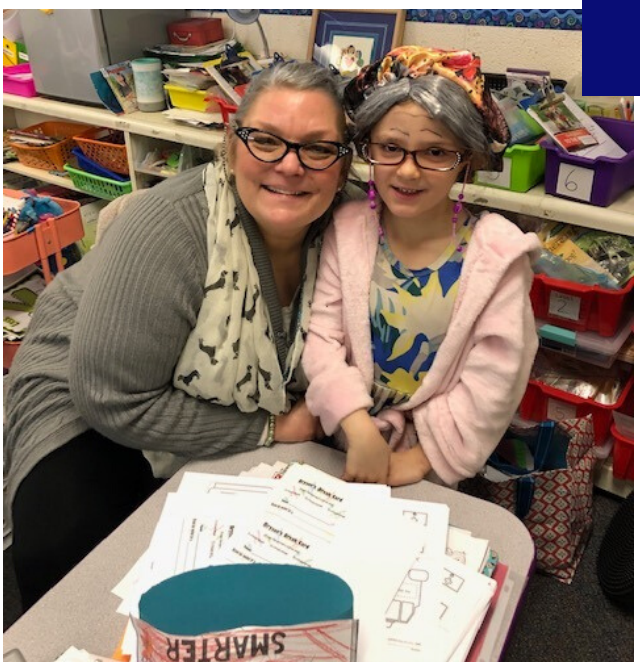
Pierce students celebrated Valentine's Day by spreading love. Students decorated the entire school with hearts that had inspirational and encouraging messages.



RIVERSIDE

Riverside hosted a Kindergarten Friendship Breakfast where staff, parents, and volunteers helped our Racers enjoy a formal experience of etiquette and friendship.

SCHOOLCRAFT



On Feb 10th, kindergarteners at Schoolcraft Elementary celebrated the 100th day of school. They counted to 100, filled bottles with 100 special items, and dressed like they were 100 years old!

STEPANSKI

Earlier this month, Stepanski students enjoyed time with their therapy dog Penny.

BEAUMONT

Beaumont second-graders had the opportunity to visit the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum!

COOLEY

Cooley students are improving essay writing by looking objectively at all sides of an issue, reading background information, and using critical thinking skills to develop an opinion and support it with textual evidence. Those students then defend their positions through live debates.

DONELSON

History is alive at Donelson! Students had a chance to participate in a living wax museum. These research projects are an immersive way for students to learn about historical figures and their contributions to society. They had the bonus of incorporating history, reading, writing, and art into one assignment.

KMS

On February 14th, the Events Committee at Kingsley Montgomery hosted a Valentine's Day party. There were many activities available for students, including a cookie decorating station, coloring, refreshments, a sensory area, and a Valentine's card and hat-making station. Students from all three programs participated in the festivities.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

The Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association (MSBOA) recognized Merlyn D. Beard II, orchestra teacher at Kettering and Mott high schools, as the 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year for Orchestra. Mr. Beard has taught orchestra and other music classes in the Waterford School District for the last twenty-five years, twenty teaching orchestra at Waterford Kettering High School. Under his direction, the Waterford Kettering Orchestra has performed across the U.S., including performances at Walt Disney World, The Smoky Mountain Music Festival, and the National Orchestra Festival. This year is the first time he has directed orchestra at both high schools.
Thank you, Merlyn, for your dedication to the Waterford School District!

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