

# AAPSNews

News, features, profiles and activities in The Ann Arbor Public Schools

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**Inside:**

- Pioneer’s Lorin Cartwright pulls the team together. **Page 2**
- Gardens, outdoors the focus of summer camp, **Page 3**



Issue No. 14, May 10, 2010

## Health care professions top their career list

Wealth of resources around Ann Arbor help high school seniors studying for a life in medicine

By Casey Hans  
AAPSNews Service

A student team sporting white lab coats and professional attire fans out into the Veterans Affairs Ann Arbor Healthcare System for the morning.

These Ann Arbor Health Sciences students will observe in surgery and physical therapy, spending time with everyday health professionals.

“We try to build on information they get in the classroom,” said Alex Sciaky, a physical therapist working with two students in her area. “They can ask questions and see if they can apply (what they’ve learned.) There is a wide variety for students to see here. It’s a very gratifying thing. The students get a lot out of it.”

Students do this clinical field work as part of the year-long program that takes them through

*See Health Sciences, page 4*



*A Huron High School Health Sciences student takes the blood pressure of a King Elementary School student.*

### Clinics introduce elementary students to healthy concepts

In addition to working in clinical settings, Health Sciences students spend time teaching and working in health clinics at their feeder elementary schools.

At King Elementary, Huron High School Health Sciences students Kaisa Wayrynen and Abby Pianelli are handling the most popular station for a fifth-grade class: One that showed both healthy and unhealthy pig lungs from the ravages of smoking. “Do you guys want lungs like this?” Pianelli asked students.

“For most people, it takes them a lifetime to get their lungs like this,” Wayrynen said. “Look at this, you can’t breathe.”

Other stations included: how to use an automatic AED defibrillator, taking students’ vital signs and one teaching germs, where Erica Skillman was explaining the difference between viral and bacterial germs to students. “When you get a cold, your doctor can give you something to make you feel better, but can’t cure it. The virus has to work its way out of your system,” she said.

Many Huron students said they had an interest in

*See Student Clinics, page 4*



*Popping up something good.*

### Popcorn venture offers entrepreneurial lesson

Things are really popping at Eberwhite Elementary School this spring, where finger-licking good popcorn is produced and sold as a small, entrepreneurial business venture with proceeds going to charity.

Students in Rose Giacherio’s class coordinate the nonprofit Hip

Hop Popcorn – an assembly line of fun that teaches students about a small business and offers snacks to the entire school. For a price, of course.

Students “popped” and produced three types of popcorn – butter, salted and cinnamon sugar – taking orders at a sales stand in the center of the school and delivering their goods at the end of each day.

Giacherio said this year’s project

raised a record \$994. Proceeds go to the students’ charity of choice.

Fifth-graders also learned about marketing their product, produced radio and TV spots and handed out free tastes to everyone in the school before distributing order forms and beginning production.

“It was truly an Eberwhite project,” she added.

*Go online for a full story and video clip*

Fifth-graders work on a balloon-powered car, preparing for a test run.



## Young engineers find out about science, speed, velocity

From AAPSNews Service

Future engineers in the Burns Park Elementary auditorium were measuring velocity and travel lengths with the help of staff from the Toyota Technical Center.

Herb Meingast, Meg Wallace and Chris Alexander were helping students in Sandy Kreger's homeroom class. Meingast and Wallace are also Burns Park parents.

Alexander was enjoying his first time volunteering in the program. "I thought it would be a lot of fun," he said. "And children have that imagination to see how things really work – it's been great to watch them."

Their visit is part of "A World in Motion," funded through the Society of Automotive Engineers Foundation for Science and Technology, and designed to stimulate interest among young technology leaders of the future. The once-a-week program runs from April through June.

Kreger said the program has been a good tool. "It parallels directly with the curriculum," she said. "They supplement what we do. They have been incredible."

According to the SAE, 10 Ann Arbor schools participate in "A World in Motion" through eight different partners. They include:

- Allen Elementary partners with Toyota.
- Ann Arbor Open @ Mack partners with General Motors and GM FST Warranty Engineering.
- Burns Park Elementary partners with Toyota Technical Center USA.
- Dicken Elementary partners with Toyota.
- Eberwhite Elementary partners with Toyota.
- King Elementary partners with General Motors, Quantum Signal LLC, GM FST Warranty Engineering and The University of Michigan.
- Lawton Elementary partners with Toyota, Washtenaw Community College, General Motors and Quantum Signal.
- Northside Elementary partners with Toyota.
- Thurston Elementary partners with Toyota.
- Wines Elementary partners with Quantum Signal.

On the Web: [www.awim.org](http://www.awim.org).

## Staff in the Spotlight: Lorin Cartwright

Lorin Cartwright, an assistant principal and athletic director at Pioneer, has been honored this year as Outstanding Educator for the Great Lakes Athletic Trainers' Association.

## AD encourages teamwork at Pioneer High

By Casey Hans  
AAPSNews Service

Juggling is not normally considered a sport, but it's one that Pioneer High School's Lorin Cartwright has mastered, nonetheless.

The school's athletic director and assistant principal can be found juggling many things on most any day. She oversees athletic scheduling, hires some 120 coaches, interacts with alumni and boosters – including doing a quarterly newsletter to garner support for the school – and handles setup and facility rentals, among other duties.

It's all in a day for the 53-year-old dynamo.

"I deal with tornadoes, there's a squirrel loose on the grounds, anything," she said with a calm wit that carries her through the day at the district's oldest high school. "Most people think I sit here and read the sports pages."

She's quick to credit her staff, including office professionals Dawn Leighton and Janet Hinz, for keeping things rolling. "You've got to have good staff," she said. "Someone who knows what's going on at all times."

Cartwright said she is proud of Pioneer's athletes, not only for the kudos they get from athletic competition, but their achievements in the classroom as well. Pioneer athletes carry a 3.23 grade point average. "We find that to be exceptional," she said.

She's just as proud of students for whom athletics has an impact in their everyday lives. "It's always great to see the success stories," she said. "But they're not necessarily the people you read about in the paper. It might be the roly-poly kid who works at it and drops 40 pounds and ends up starting on the team when nobody thought he would even play."

She said students represent our future and that, as a society, we should care about them – all of them. "It makes me feel good to know that the future of the world is safer and there are wonderful future leaders," she said of watching



her high school students grow into adults. "One's going to be my lawyer, one my doctor and one might be my taxi driver."

Cartwright's path to Pioneer seems as simple as a phone call, but she calls it serendipitous. After graduating from Grand Valley State University, she began a master's program in exercise physiology at Michigan State University in 1980 but had applied to be the head athletic trainer at Pioneer.

One day, she called to follow up on her application. They brought her right in and "I was interviewed and hired on the spot," she said. "I was hired that day and started that day. I lived at Pioneer High School for the first until I found somewhere to stay."

Cartwright taught at Forsythe, Tappan and Scarlett middle schools and was Pioneer's head athletic trainer for 15 years before being promoted to her current post.

She originally thought she might teach at the college level, but "I got a job teaching at the Ann Arbor Public Schools and I never looked back," she said. That was 29 years ago.

"I was meant to be here," she added. "I don't know why, but I'm ever grateful for someone who said 'do you want to teach here?'" Cartwright taught and spent her afternoons training at Pioneer before being offered the interim Pioneer AD post in 1995. In 1996, they made the appointment permanent and added the assistant principal's title and duties.

In March, Cartwright received the Great Lakes Athletic Trainers' Association's Outstanding Educator Award – the first time an athletic director has ever received the award, she said.

Doug Woods, who served as head athletic trainer and director of athletic training curriculum when Cartwright was a student at Grand Valley State, was Cartwright's mentor. He helped her to move into athletic training after she was cut from

See Cartwright, next page

## Lorin Cartwright

**Occupation:** Athletic Director and Assistant Principal at Pioneer High School. She also has authored or co-authored six textbooks on athletic training.

**Residence:** Scio Township.

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in Physical Education and Health and Biology from Grand Valley State University and master's degree in Education from The University of Michigan.

**Age:** 53

**Family:** Two brothers, one sister, mom, dad and stepmom, most who live in Detroit's eastern suburbs. "They're very supportive of everything I've done," she said. "I just hope I can meet half of their expectations."

**Pets:** Two dogs: Bailey, a Lab mix, and Bear, a black Lab. Both were adopted from The Humane Society.

**Hobbies:** Working with wood and stained glass when she has time. She also plays golf in a pickup league and invites coaches and other over for some winter broomball on the ice.

**Community service:** Board of directors for Zion Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor; board member of Eastern Michigan University sports management curriculum; honorary member of the Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor; former president of the Great Lakes Athletic Trainers' Association and a member of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administration Association and the Michigan Athletic Trainers Society.

**Favorite meal:** "I love food. Food is an addiction and so Weight Watchers is a constant membership in my life. I'm a foodaholic!"

**Life philosophy:** "To leave the world a better place for having been in it. Do what's in the best interest of the kids – it makes it easy to make decisions."

## Cartwright, from previous page

the women's basketball team and didn't know what do to with her afternoons.

She wandered into Woods' area and he suggested she learn to tape athletic injuries and, eventually, she became his primary go-to student.

"When one door closes, another one opens," she said. "Life has a funny way of creating lessons. It is what you make of it."

Woods said of Cartwright's career: "She's made me proud," he said of her worth ethic. "She's very intelligent – a hard worker and organized. I think she's a great visionary too. She leads very well."

Cartwright said her approach to her job mirrors her approach to life. "I think I have a really good time in life and that's important to me," she said. "I'm just one little piece of the puzzle. I've got a lot of great puzzle pieces around me. When you surround yourself with outstanding coaches and secretaries, one can only be successful."

The bottom line, she said, is this: "None of this is about me. It's what I can give to others to make their lives better and assist them in becoming better."

# Ready or not, here come summer camp adventures

## From AAPSNews Service

The popular Green Adventures Camp is being offered for a third year in The Ann Arbor Public Schools.

"This one's special because it's very much hands-on and our focus is on the environment," said Robin Schultz-Purves, community education coordinator who organizes the camp for the Community Education and Recreation Department, also known as Rec & Ed. "This gives them a chance to think about things in a different way. I think they just absorb so much."

The camp is Rec & Ed's newest camp offering. It features morning classroom time with certified teachers Jane Levy and Will Wright, combined with afternoon field experiences.

Schultz-Purves said the camp was started as a way to maintain a camp approach, but offer some real learning as well. This year's program has been moved from Allen Elementary to Lakewood Elementary, where kids will have the nearby Lakewood Woods and the Dolph Nature Area to explore.

"Kids really respond to being outdoors and visiting wild areas," said John Stahly, who, along with Dave Szczygiel, leads children on afternoon excursions to area parks, woodlands and community gardens. "Our society has narrowed and narrowed kids' time, so that many don't get the opportunity to get outdoors much."

Activities this year will include bee keeping and gardening, as well as preparing and eating the "fruits of our labor," Schultz-Purves said. Last year, 115 pounds of fresh produce from the camp's gardens was donated to Food Gatherers.

Stahly said kids' favorite camp activity involves getting wet. "They love to get in the water and try to catch bugs and catch crayfish," he said. Stahly said he was also surprised at how



*Students enrolled in Green Adventures Camp discover all sorts of cool things in the outdoors.*

*(Photo courtesy, John Stahly)*

much they enjoy tasks that are part of camp. "They love to work in the garden and cut brush in the park. They take ownership in it," he said. "We emphasize that they are doing real work."

Children will work in a garden at the Lakewood site, as well as in a larger garden on the Richard Raynor property near Frains Lake, where the program also keeps honey bees for the program.

The camp is organized into eight weekly sessions, each with a specified theme dealing with water quality, sustainable agriculture, caring for the Earth or exploring the environment.

Parents can register a child for any of the sessions. For

information, see the Rec & Ed 2010 Summer Camps catalog or visit online.

Any child enrolled for 5 or more weeks purchased in one transaction will get a multi-week discount of 10 percent.

The Green Adventures Camp is among many

options offered to youths aged 3-17 this summer. Camps take place in various schools around the district as well as area parks and other community locations. Scholarships are available to Ann Arbor district families with financial need. The Community Education and Recreation Department recently moved and is now located on the south end of Pioneer High School, at 1515 S. Seventh St. Visit [www.aaps.k12.mi.us/reced](http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/reced).



# Exceptional Education

## High school seniors work in community settings to learn about health careers

### Health Sciences, from page 1

one semester of classroom learning at their respective high schools, then places them in six rotating clinical internships throughout the community. They shadow professionals, observe surgeries and other procedures and get to ask questions of the experts.

“The kids love the opportunity to talk with patients,” said Cathy Malette, a health sciences instructor from Pioneer High School who team-teaches the program with Lynn Boland at Huron High. Both are registered nurses who had careers in the private sector before entering the classroom.

Seniors Nick Blogin from Huron and Wen Ching (Ruth) Wei from Pioneer were at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System learning about physical therapy. Blogin said he plans to study either dentistry or physical therapy when he graduates. “I knew I wanted to do something in the health field for sure,” he said, adding about the Health Sciences program “I thought why not give it a shot?”

Before his trip to the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System, he had observed oral surgery at Michigan Oral Surgery and pharmacy at U-M and was scheduled to spend time with the U-M Medical Center’s Survival Flight and in the hospital’s emergency room and also had time scheduled to observe at the Ann Arbor Animal Hospital.

Wei did some clinical work in cath labs, pediatric medicine, orthopedics and obstetrics and gynecology as part of her clinical rotation. She said she is leaning toward surgery as a career.

“I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do last year,” she said. “After the presentation (about Health Sciences) I said ‘I’m so signing up for that.’ I was thinking about doing law and said, now I really want to do this.”

The 30-year-old Health Sciences program prepares high school seniors for health-related



Cathy Malette, left, gets ready to send students to their assignments at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System.

careers. Most enrolled are from Huron and Pioneer and two students this year are from Community High School. Malette and Boland work closely with the University of Michigan Health System, Saint Joseph Mercy Health System and the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System to place students in areas of health interest.

“We get feedback from students and parents about how this was a life-changing class,” Malette said. She said the class often exposes students to health careers that they may have never considered.

“They observe babies being born, work in burn units or with veterinarians; they’re really seeing just about anything.”

She noted that the process matures students and brings them into a more professional setting. “Our goal is not to just make them competent, but compassionate health care providers, she said. “It’s really quite a privilege to teach this class and mold the next generation.”

Boland said having an Ann Arbor-based program is unique. “A large percentage of our students go on to medical school, nursing and physical therapy,” she said. “We tell them ev-

### Health Sciences honors

**U-M Medical Innovation Center:** Students were invited to be members of the Medical Innovation Center, professionals who have collaborated to develop innovations for the U-M Health System. Students selected this year include:

■**Huron High School:**  
Ben Case and Renee Philson.

■**Pioneer High School:**  
Dhaatri Kuchipudi and Liane Racelis.

**U-M MLK Medical Symposium:** Health Sciences students were invited to submit essays for the MLK Symposium at the U-M Medical School, writing about “Catalyst for Change in Health Care.” The finalist read her essay at the symposium and had lunch with Dr. Lisa Newman, a surgical oncologist and keynote speaker for the event. Students honored included:

■**Essay Winner:** Lauren Phillips of Pioneer.

■**Finalists:** Wen-Ching (Ruth) Wei and Bala Naveen Kakaraparthi, both of Pioneer.

**HOSA Competition:** Ann Arbor Health Sciences students entered the Health Occupations Students of America competition and did well at both regional and state events. Visit online for winners:

■**Region 3 Leadership Conference** awards [www.michiganhosa.org](http://www.michiganhosa.org).

■**Michigan HOSA 2010 State Leadership Conference** awards were April 15-16. Visit [www.michiganhosa.org/](http://www.michiganhosa.org/)

ery day, you are so lucky. Don’t ever take it for granted. It’s an amazing opportunity for them.”

*A detailed version of this story appears online. For more on the Health Sciences program, visit [www.a2schools.org/ins.healthscitech/home](http://www.a2schools.org/ins.healthscitech/home).*



### Student clinics, from page 1

health care and medical professions before signing up for the Health Sciences program. “I think I like it a lot now that I have done it,” said Tamara Slay, who plans to attend Washtenaw Community College and transfer to Eastern Michigan

*Huron High School Health Sciences students explain a diseased pig lung at King Elementary School.*

University for nursing.

Kara Henderson also plans on a career in nursing with a WCC and Eastern education. She said a clinic time at the University of Michigan Cast Clinic caught her interest. “I had an interest in the medical field,” she said. “This has really been a good experience for me.”

Neonatal nursing is what Lindsey Lawson has in mind for her future career. “I’m getting to do hands-on things. It’s exciting,” she said of

the clinicals. “I want to be exposed to things – that’s why I came.” She plans to begin her college career at WCC then move onto U-M.

Lynn Boland, the Huron High Health Sciences teacher, said the students are getting experience with a variety of age levels by visiting the elementary schools. Teaching is an important part of being a professional in the health field, and this exercise exposes them to that, she said.