

AAPSNews

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

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Detailed stories online at news.a2schools.org

Help us choose a name

We want your help in choosing a permanent name for this print and online newsletter for The Ann Arbor Public Schools. Please e-mail your ideas to District Editor Casey Hans at hansc@aaps.k12.mi.us or call her at 734-994-2090 ext. 51228 by Nov. 30. Include your idea, your name, your contact information and the best time to contact you if we have questions. Thank you for your contribution.

A bi-monthly newsletter

Issue No. 1, November 2, 2009

County ballot initiative considered Tuesday

From AAPSNews Service

Voters in Washtenaw County will consider a regional property tax for the county's 10 public school districts Tuesday, Nov. 3. The measure is being put on the ballot by the Washtenaw Intermediate School District at the request of local boards of education, including Ann Arbor.

The ballot issue asks for two mills for a five-year period. If approved by voters, it would be effective for budget years from 2009-13. The

millage equates to \$2 per \$1,000 of taxable property value, costing the owner of a \$100,000 house with a taxable value of \$50,000 an estimated \$100 per year.

Of the estimated \$30 million that would be raised, Ann Arbor would receive \$11.2 million. Other districts that would receive revenue from the millage include: Chelsea, Dexter, Lincoln, Manchester, Milan, Saline, Whitmore Lake, Willow Run and Ypsilanti. Money would be distributed based on each district's enrollment

using the most recent audited student count. Public charter schools would not receive money.

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3.

City of Ann Arbor residents can get more information by visiting the city clerk's election page at: www.a2gov.org. For residents living in areas outside of the Ann Arbor city limits, visit: www.ewashtenaw.org.

Visit the county's web site, www.ewashtenaw.org, clerk's department to see ballot language.

Featured story

Students enhance Eberwhite Woods

From AAPSNews Service

A large pile of wood chips and lots of community muscle have made the paths of Eberwhite Woods a bit more navigable, once again.

Students from nearby Eberwhite Elementary School and teams of volunteer parents spread some 50 yards of chips along the paths this fall – something the school community does annually, covering one third of the trailways, rotating them to different areas each year. Wood Chip Day, which took place on Oct. 16, involved students from every grade.

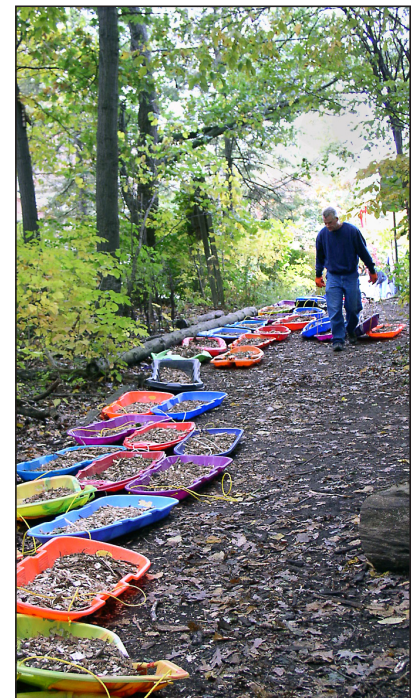
"This basically maintains the trail. It's a community service project," said Pam Baker of the Eberwhite PTO was in charge of this year's project on behalf of the school, which coordinates the effort annually with the Eberwhite Woods Committee.

"We got lucky – it's not raining," she added.



Students pull sleds laden with bark mulch to spread along paths in the Eberwhite Woods, just west of their school. At right, Parent Dave Sleamon prepares sleds for students. This year's annual community service project took place on Oct. 16.

The Eberwhite Woods and adjacent land were sold to the University of Michigan in 1915 for natural and educational purposes. In 1946, the U-M Regents deeded the wood and nearby property to The Ann Arbor Public Schools to be used as a school site. In recent years, the City of Ann Arbor purchased 2.5 acres adjoining the woods.



Exceptional Education

School Bells

Following is a series of news briefs about The Ann Arbor Public Schools.

Student numbers increase by 68 in annual fall count

Student counts taken this fall in The Ann Arbor Public Schools saw an unexpected gain of 68 students over last year. Officials had projected an increase of just 50 students, so were pleased with the increased numbers, said Liz Margolis, the district's director of communications.

The new count brings the district's total number of students to 16,489.

A blended number from fall and winter student counts determine how the state funds public school districts around the state.

Student-made video used with History Channel documentary

A video created by Pioneer High School students Kyle Anderson and Aidan Barrer about the assassination of John F. Kennedy was used by producers of a documentary on The History Channel in October.

The two created the rap-style video as an assignment for their American Studies class with Brent Richards last year. They posted the video on Youtube where it caught the attention of a producer from New York who asked for permission to use a portion of the video in the documentary.

The film aired Oct. 12 on the History Channel.

H1N1 clinics canceled

The Washtenaw County Department of Public Health will not host H1N1 flu clinics in the Ann Arbor Public Schools this month as originally planned. Instead, a mass vaccination for high-priority groups is being offered on Thursday, Nov. 5 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Eastern Michigan University Convocation Center, 299 N. Hewitt Road, Ypsilanti.

The free H1N1 shots are being offered only to high-priority groups, due to limited supply of the vaccine. These groups include: pregnant women, household and caregiver contacts of children younger than 6 months, health care personnel who provide direct patient care, children from 6 months through 4 years of age and children and teens age 5 through 18 who have medical conditions associated with a higher risk of influenza complications, such as asthma.

Details: 734-544-6700 or visit <http://publichealth.ewashtenaw.org>.

Staff in the Spotlight : Raleigh Sadlier



Raleigh Sadlier, an Ann Arbor Public Schools occupational therapist, works with some students at Haisley Elementary School. Here, two fifth-graders assist younger students in exercise.

OT committed to helping students

From AAPSNews Service

Not everyone loves their work. In Raleigh Sadlier's case, she not only enjoys it but takes her work home.

The occupational therapist who works at Haisley and Pattengill elementary schools and Scarlett Middle School, says each day – sometimes each hour – brings a new challenge but one that she loves.

"It's a job that requires creativity, patience," she said. "You have to shift to accommodate the audience: age level, teachers, developmental level. It's ever-changing. I find it challenging, frustrating and rewarding."

On Monday mornings, Sadlier has fifth-graders mentor younger students.

"They're great guys who like to help out," she said.

Fifth-grader Kyle says he's proud to be helping younger kids with writing and exercise which builds skills. "It's fun," he said. "We're helpful to them." Another fifth-grader, Joe, said he enjoys doing exercises with the younger students. "We're older and we know a lot, so we can teach them what we know," he added.

"She's excellent," said Haisley Principal Mary Anne Jaeger. "She is able to bring students together, including general ed. She's extremely competent and looks out for all kids."

Sadlier, 43, said she has loved her profession and that, although college offered a good base, occupational therapy requires a lot of on-the-job training because of students' individual needs. "You have to get your degree and just get in there," she added.

Sadlier has been in the occupational therapy field since 1995 and in Ann Arbor for 5 ½ years. Coming from a blended family of 9 children, Sadlier grew up in Chicago but said she now calls Ann Arbor home with her husband, Chris, and their two sons.

"I love all of the UMS (University Musical Society) functions, all of the cultural activities, hiking and woods and the river," she said.

"What's keeping us here are the values of the people of Ann Arbor. They think outside of their neighborhood. People (in Ann Arbor) are aware and interested in the larger picture."

One of the personal things Sadlier is most proud of is her involvement with a local advocacy group for ALS research, called Ann Arbor Active Against ALS.

The group formed after a neighbor developed amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. In just two years, members have raised \$40,000 which is donated to ALS research programs at the University of Michigan and ALS Therapy Development Institute in Cambridge, Mass. For information on the local group, visit www.A2A3.org.

'Communicator' a finalist in national journalism contest

Revamped
online edition will
complement
print publication

From AAPSNews Service

Photos courtesy,
Community High School

Step into Tracy Rosewarne's classroom at Ann Arbor's Community High School and discover a new world of news with a team of enthused student journalists.

They recently received national honors for their newsmagazine, *The Communicator*, and have found themselves on the cutting edge of a journalism industry in chaos, said Rosewarne, a teacher and the publications' faculty adviser.

It's an exciting time, she said, and one that has prompted a review how students are delivering news and features.

New this year: A revamped Web site for not only journalism contributions, but also a showcase for creative writing, photography and other student work. The new site, found at www.the-communicator.org, is expected to be up and operating early this month. Unlike the former online edition – which simply posted items from the print edition – the new site will be its own news-gathering operation with fresh content and a new look.

"It's a real world application," she said, adding that no one had anticipated how quickly the scales have tipped toward readership on the Internet.

But despite increased Web activity, "*The Communicator*" will not stop publishing in print, said Rosewarne, who has advised the staff for about 10 years. It will continue as a 32-page tabloid printed edition and the student journalism staff is larger than ever: The 60 student journalists will divide into Web and print teams – although she said students will have opportunities to work on both.

The student-run print edition is one of seven newsmagazines around the country named finalists this fall in the Newspaper Pacemaker contest, sometimes referred to as "the Pulitzer Prize" of student journalism. The annual contest is spon-



Members of *The Communicator* staff at Community High School, left, with teacher and adviser Tracy Rosewarne, above. The student newsmagazine is one of seven honored in the country as a finalist for the Pacemaker, a top award for student journalism.

'These students do a great job – it really is student run.'

Tracy Rosewarne, adviser for
The Communicator at
Community High School

sored by the National Scholastic Press Association and the Newspaper Association of American Foundation.

Rosewarne said one of the reasons *The Communicator* is successful is that student journalists take their responsibility seriously, which helps them with decision-making skills.

"It's important to have them go through the intellectual process," she said. "I tell students 'I'm not their net.' It starts with you, then it goes to the section editor, then to the editor. These students do a great job – it really is student run."

Rosewarne attributes the kudos to a solid group of experienced students and a redesign of the publication over the past few years with the help of design guru Tony Majeri, a former Chicago Tribune editor who is active with the Society of News Design.

"I had a lot of student strength and energy," Rosewarne added. "It's a very big award."

Senior student co-editors Kayla Stoler and Julia Mogerman are returning to *The Communicator* staff this year. Mogerman also credited the

redesign for bringing them national attention. "Our paper started to look really different," she said. "It was a lot more consistent and focused." Stoler said there's a lot of pride among the staff and that the achievement has brought them together. "We know who we are as a school. We know who our readers are and we try to keep it focused," she said.

Winners of the contest will be announced at the Journalism Education Association/NSPA Fall National High School Journalism Convention in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 14-15 and a delegation of 20 from the Ann Arbor school will attend. Rosewarne said the conference will give students new ideas for moving ahead.

The Communicator competes with student magazines in Ohio, Missouri, Kansas, Georgia, Texas and California for the award. Entries were based on an overall review including coverage and content, quality of writing and reporting, leadership on the opinion page, evidence of in-depth reporting, layout and design and photography, art and graphics.

Kathy Huting, NSPA contest and critique contest coordinator, said although her organization has heard the Pacemakers referred to as the "Pulitzer of student journalists," they don't refer to it that way.

"But it definitely represents the top high school newspapers in the country," she said. The group has given out Pacemaker awards since 1927.

This year's Pacemaker contest had 339 entries and was judged by professional journalists from Seattle.

WCC brings healthy lesson to Carpenter

From AAPSNews Service

At Carpenter Elementary School last month, the annual Teddy Bear Clinic was a learning experience all the way around.

There were no teddy bears to be found, but there was a warm-and-cuddly approach by visiting nursing students from Washtenaw Community College. Nurses gained experience working with early elementary school youngsters, while students learned about nutrition, vision, their senses, exercise and other health-related issues.

And, students learned that every time you see a nurse – it's not for a shot. "They always want to know 'am I getting shots today?' or whether they're getting any pokes," said instructor Carole Baker, who also works in private nursing. "Students (here) get to see nurses as a caregiver and not be afraid."

The visit is an annual event by the WCC nursing program. Head nursing instructor Sherry MacGregor said the event has been going on at the eastside elementary school for some 14 years and that they also visit other Ann Arbor elementaries during the year. "Carpenter has always been our school because we're so close" geographically, she said.

Carpenter first-grade teacher Michelle Seals said she looks forward to the program. "They're a wonderful asset," she said of the WCC nurses. "What a great connection. They need the outreach and we need the outreach."



Nursing students from Washtenaw Community College visited Ann Arbor's Carpenter Elementary School in October, putting on a Teddy Bear Clinic. Early elementary students learned about nutrition, their senses, exercise and other health-related topics. WCC's program visits this and other Ann Arbor elementary schools each year.

Let them eat pie ... high schoolers raise money for a cure



Football players from Pioneer and Huron high schools hosted a pie-eating contest last month to raise money for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The event was one of many that took place the week that the two teams squared off on the football field.

From AAPSNews Service

Photo courtesy, Pioneer High School Football Boosters

Although a fall pie-eating contest between two Ann Arbor high schools ended in a virtual tie, the winner was clearly the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

The first Pioneer vs. Huron Pie Eating Contest raised \$80 in one hour, which is as long as it took the two five-person teams to finish their pies, said Veronica Pasfield, marketing chairwoman for the Pioneer High School Football Boosters Club.

Whole Foods–Cranbrook Village was the location for the Oct. 7 event between the two varsity football teams to raise money for the Komen Foundation and its Breast Cancer 3 Day For the Cure walk and to recognize October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The theme was carried throughout both schools during the week, with students, athletes, band members and others wearing pink T-shirts imprinted with the motto "Rivals on the Field, United for a Cure," and designed by Huron Athletic Director Dottie Davis. The "pink" events, including sales of some of the shirts, raised a total of \$722.66, according to a recent blog post by Pioneer Athletic Trainer Anne Solari. Solari will participate in this year's 3-Day event.