

2022 PTA  
Reflections  
photography  
Award of  
Excellence

Anna Novak,  
Churchill  
High School,  
12<sup>th</sup> grade

"The Empty  
Waterfall"

March 24, 2022  
St. Mary's Cultural Center | Livonia, Michigan  
**Advocate • Communicate • Support**

# 2022 PTA Reflections

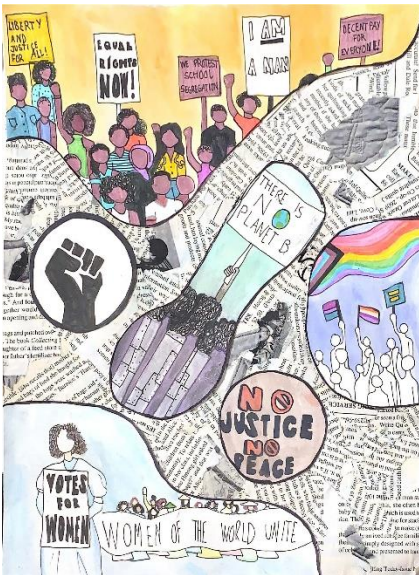
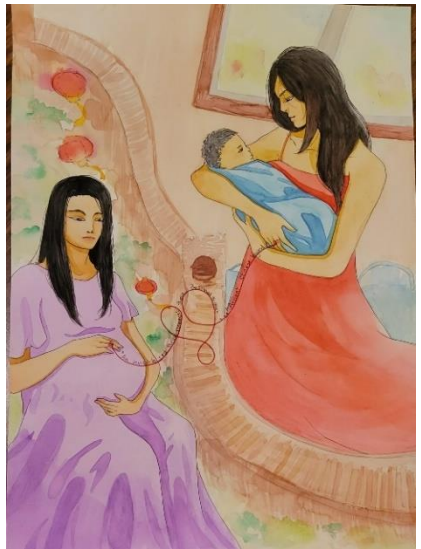


Alexis  
Tsang,  
Webster,  
3<sup>rd</sup> grade

*"I Will  
Change  
the World  
By Curing  
Cancer"*

Olivia VanAcker, Churchill,  
11<sup>th</sup> grade

*"Change the World for a Child"*



Jasper James, Frost, 8<sup>th</sup> grade

*"Progress is Peace"*

*Enjoy other award-winning pieces throughout the booklet*

# Livonia **PTSA** Council

**F**ounders' Day is a reminder of the substantial role that PTA has played locally, regionally, and nationally in supporting parent involvement and working on behalf of all children and families. It's a time to reflect and take pride in our many accomplishments and to renew our commitment to be a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for parents, and a strong advocate for public education.

PTA's founders, Phoebe Apperson Hearst and Alice McLellan Birney, and the founder of Georgia's Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, Selena Sloan Butler, were women of imagination and courage. They understood the power of individual action, worked beyond the accepted barriers of their day, and took action to literally change the world.

They had a simple idea – to improve the lives and futures of all of our children. As much as other conditions in America may have changed, that idea has not. PTAs keep it alive.

Today, PTA is the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the nation. Our members represent the ethnic diversity of our nation, and they come from the ranks of traditional families, single-parent households, blended families, grandparents, and other caring adults. Together, we continue to serve as the conscience of the country for children and youth.

# Founders' Day Celebration Program

5:30 p.m.	Check In
6:00 p.m. Welcome	Mandy Gerstenbrand Livonia PTSA Council President
Remarks	Andrea Oquist Superintendent
6:30 p.m.	Dinner – Buffet Style
7:15 p.m.	Awards Ceremony  Spirit of PTSA Award – Dave Gluth Johnson Upper Elementary PTA
Closing Remarks	Mandy Gerstenbrand Livonia PTSA Council

**Cover artwork ~ Anna Novak, “The Empty Waterfall”**

**Theme: “I Will Change the World By”**

**Artist Statement:** Usually, this waterfall is filled with smooth, flowing water, and the pond is high enough to almost cover the stump. However, by midsummer, when I visited, the water levels had dropped so much the waterfall was barely a trickle. Even the locals said it was unusually dry. Shrinking lakes and rivers, such as those feeding this waterfall, are just one effect of climate change. I will change the world by working towards a better future for the environment and encouraging others to do the same.

*Enjoy other award-winning pieces throughout the booklet*

# **2021-2022 Livonia Public Schools Elementary Educator of the Year**

## **Peggy Brissette**

Peggy Brissette is a third-grade teacher at Coolidge Elementary. She has been a teacher in Livonia Public Schools for 21 years.



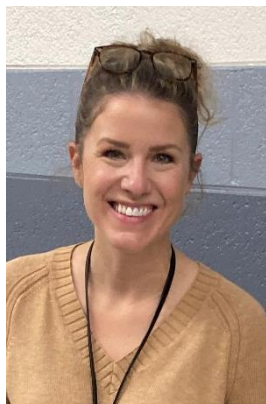
Mrs. Brissette is known for her positive attitude and for being a lifelong learner who is always searching for new ways to connect and engage with her students. She sets high expectations; supports each student in achieving success and encourages her students to be the best version of themselves, every day.

She is described by her colleagues as someone who is a mentor, team player and someone who “lives and breathes” the district’s Community with Character elements. Mrs. Brissette stepped outside of her comfort zone during the 2020-2021 school year by teaching third grade in the Livonia Virtual fully remote option. She excelled in learning best practices and shared those practices with her colleagues in LV. Her students thrived in their online classroom community that she created – even sharing virtual weekly lunch and social time with her students. She strikes the right balance between fun and learning while building relationships with her students.

# **2021-2022 Livonia Public Schools Secondary Educator of the Year**

## **Amy Munday**

Amy Munday is a special education teacher in the Western Wayne Skill Center program at Garfield Community School. She has been teaching in Livonia Public Schools for 14 years.



Mrs. Munday is known for her positive attitude, her genuine connections and relationships with her students, families and colleagues. More than ever before, Mrs. Munday has shown her perseverance and creativity throughout the Covid-19 health crisis by turning her interest and talent in refinishing household furniture into a micro-business. She and her students work each day to refinish donated pieces of furniture – giving new life to worn out desks, chairs, dressers, tables, etc. She and her students then sell the pieces on their Skill-Ful Designs Facebook page. All proceeds benefit Garfield Community School.

Her colleagues said she has an “innovative mindset” that extends well beyond a “growth mindset.” She works tirelessly to provide learning experiences for her students, while caring deeply about their overall well-being.

# **2021-2022 Livonia Public Schools Support Staff of the Year**

## **Eric Raymond**

Eric Raymond is the building supervisor at Garfield Community School, where he has worked for 11 years. He is a 34-year employee of Livonia Public Schools.



Mr. Raymond is known as being “the heart of the school,” keeping the building and grounds clean, safe and welcoming. He is described as being an “outstanding example of a respectful and kind human being” who has a work ethic that is second to none. He truly takes pride in keeping Garfield an impeccable learning environment for students and staff in the three programs that are housed at the school.

Outside of his custodial duties, Mr. Raymond takes it upon himself to build relationships with students, even inviting them to partner with him during his workday. For students who may need to move around throughout the day, Mr. Raymond develops a work plan and teaches skills that students will carry into their daily lives. He is patient and kind while offering instruction and it is apparent that the students truly love working alongside Mr. Raymond.

## Thank you to Our Local PTA & PTSA Units!

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### 2021-2022 Livonia PTA/PTSA Presidents & Principals

<b>Unit</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Principal</b>
<b>Buchanan</b>	Valerie Jackson	Jonathon Wennstrom
<b>Churchill</b>	Patty Novak	Kevin Etue
<b>Cleveland</b>	Kara Depew	Rob Witherspoon
<b>Coolidge</b>	Amanda Michell	Kristina Collyer
<b>Cooper</b>	Heather Poisson	Shalonda Owens
<b>Emerson</b>	Caroline Shiner	Kevin English
<b>Franklin</b>	Kellie Dummer	Andrew Pesci
<b>Frost</b>	Crystal Frank	Shanan Wheeler
<b>Grant</b>	Elizabeth Cortes	Sherri Mazzoni
<b>Hayes</b>	Laura Bailey	Larry Grezak
<b>Holmes</b>	Lori Sosnowski	Deann Urso
<b>Hoover</b>	Rebecca Bowring	Julie Linn
<b>Jackson Center</b>	Kimberly Krug	Katie Dodge
<b>Johnson</b>	Lauren Peters	Tom Traub
<b>Kennedy</b>	Julie Turk	Danielle Daniels
<b>Niji-Iro</b>	Aya Yasukawa-Dudzinski	Lawrence DeLuca
<b>Randolph</b>	Kendall Goddard	Mike Daraskavich
<b>Riley</b>	Marcie Wenzlick	Kristyn Cousino
<b>Roosevelt</b>	Jessica Ecker	Diana Shahin
<b>Rosedale</b>	Burime Caushi	Paula Kohler
<b>Stevenson</b>	Darlene Morris	Pete Mazzoni
<b>Webster</b>	Tracey Schenk	Lora Boka

# 2021-2022 Distinguished PTA/PTSA Parents, Staff and Students

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We are honoring the best of Livonia Public Schools. These Distinguished volunteers embody the values of PTA/PTSA:

- **Collaboration:** We work in partnership with a wide array of individuals and organizations to accomplish our agreed-upon goals.
- **Commitment:** We are dedicated to promoting children's health, well-being, and educational success through strong parent, family and community involvement.
- **Accountability:** We acknowledge our obligations. We deliver on our promises.
- **Respect:** We value our colleagues and ourselves. We expect the same high quality of effort and thought from ourselves as we do from others.
- **Inclusivity:** We invite the stranger and welcome the newcomer. We value and seek input from as wide a spectrum of viewpoints and experiences as possible.
- **Integrity:** We act consistently with our beliefs. When we err, we acknowledge the mistake and seek to make amends.

Each of these honorees has earned the respect and admiration of their fellow PTSA members and teachers by being an active, positive member and leader in their PTA. We are also proud to recognize the Livonia Public Schools Educators and Support Staff of the Year.

Livonia PTSA Council congratulates all those honored tonight. Also, a huge THANK YOU to ALL our PTA members, teachers and staff who work so hard to make our school district great.

# **Buchanan Elementary School**

## **Staff – Bob Miller**

Helpful, Fun, Supportive, and Kind member for two years. Mr. Miller has been the building supervisor at Buchanan for two years. He is always willing to help the PTA with our events and activities. Whether it's setting up tables, providing traffic cones, or making sure we have garbage cans, we can always count on Mr. Miller to be there with a smile. He also makes sure the students are having fun, for instance, when he threw water balloons off the roof during our very hot field day in the spring. Mr. Miller is a great supporter of and partner to the PTA. We are lucky to have him in the building!

## **Parent – Jill Allevato**

Positive, Hard-working, Collaborative, and Thoughtful member for eight years. Jill is the epitome of a team player. She consistently volunteers to take the lead on events and activities and maintains a positive attitude even when things get tough. She is a great idea-generating machine with amazing follow-through. Jill has been a PTA member for eight years and has served as a board member for three years. She has chaired multiple events such as the Scholastic Book Fair and our Fall Photo Fundraiser. She also initiated two cheer-spreading activities this year: the Buchanan Thankful Tree (which included a leaf from each student with something they are thankful for) and our candy gram sale. Jill is an integral member of our board and will be greatly missed next year.



*Claire Pagnucco, Stevenson,  
12<sup>th</sup> grade*

*“Embraced”*

## Cleveland Elementary School

**Staff** – Robert Witherspoon

Positive, Dedicated, Helpful, and Hardworking member for several years. Mr. Witherspoon works closely with our PTA and offers his constant support. We appreciate all of his dedication to making Cleveland the best it can be!

**Parent** – Amanda Gerstenbrand

Dedicated and funny member for many years. Mandy keeps the Cleveland community entertained with the jokes on the sign in front of the school!

## Coolidge Elementary School

**Staff** – Todd Mai

Funny, Nice, Caring, Thoughtful member for years. He is always at the meetings and he is super helpful when asked questions.

**Parent** – Becky Irwin

Friendly, Caring, Helpful and Dedicated member for two years. Becky has been stepping in and helping with whatever we need, she had filled in for Secretary, and she was at the school for the Holiday Shop EVERY day from 9-4. She is fun and always smiling (even under the mask). She has been amazing for the PTA this year.



*Morgan Leciejewski,  
Webster, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade*

*“Love Spreads Kindness”*

# **Grant Elementary School**

## **Staff** – Carolyn Corp

Supportive, Engaged, Appreciative, and Amazing member. She supports our events and helps get her students involved and is always appreciative of all the things PTA does for the staff and students.

## **Parent** – Robyn Mason

Fun-loving, Giving, Caring, and Talented member for eight years. Robyn has been an asset to Grant — both on and off the PTA board — for eight years. This year is, unfortunately, her last year as a parent here, and she will be greatly missed. Robyn has never hesitated to step up to help out, from attending or running events, leading a team of volunteers, fundraising or lending her artistic talents to create signs, sets and murals for the school. Her beautiful work can be seen when walking through the halls of Grant and will be cherished for years to come. During the 2020-21 school year when we couldn't have in-person events, Robyn planned and executed a drive thru Halloween event, the Boo Thru, which was huge hit with staff, students and families. She repeated the event again this year and it was another smashing success. For the last few years, she has also led photography for the school and put her heart and soul into creating our yearbook, which is no easy feat. Robyn, thank you for all you have done and continue to do for our students, staff and families. You are appreciated more than you know!



*Adelina Calleja, Grant, 1<sup>st</sup> grade*

*“Differences”*

# Hayes Elementary School

## **Staff** – Gerard Lukas

Compassionate, Generous, Diligent and Courteous member for 14 years. Mr. Lukas is an under the radar supporter of the Hayes PTA. The way he always includes all PTA related events in his newsletters to the thank you notes left for the PTA. But most importantly, he has a huge, generous heart for his students and parents. He insists every year that his students do NOT purchase him a Christmas gift. Instead of a gift, he asks his students to do a good deed, like giving back to someone in need. In return, he gives his students a gift card to buy a pizza dinner for themselves and their families.

## **Parent** – Kelly Carr

Creative, Ambitious, Generous and Passionate member for over five years. Kelly has committed well over five years to serving the Hayes Elementary PTA. This year is the first year she is not serving on our PTA board, so now she can finally be nominated for all her hard work and commitment to the school, staff and students. Whether it's setting up for the Color Run, taking photos for the yearbook, volunteering to help for picture day or being at the holiday shop every single day the shop is open – you'll find Kelly there!



*Liliana Holland, Frost,  
7<sup>th</sup> grade*

*"In My Perfect World"*

# **Hoover Elementary School**

## **Staff – Karla Strict**

Kind, Reliable, and Appreciated member for two years. Karla is always there to help in any way. During these challenging times, she not only kept all of our kids safe and our school clean and sanitized but she helped us get into the school early to set up teacher appreciation days. She is always willing to help us set up and clean up. She was instrumental in helping us keep the bees at bay for popsicles on the playground and always knows where our tent has been moved to. She is the quiet hero of our PTA. She is always the first person to arrive in the morning to get everything ready for the day. She keeps the drop off line moving and is always greeting every child and parent that comes her way. It says a lot about a person when every child knows her name. You often hear Ms. Karla is the best and we know she is.

## **Parent – Carmin Haylock**

Dedicated, Caring, Fun, and Congenial member for five years. There isn't a parent more dedicated to Hoover students, staff and PTA than Carmin Haylock. Even before becoming involved with the PTA, Carmin volunteered her time to make Hoover a wonderful place. She has spent countless hours campaigning for parent volunteers, running errands, setting up events, working events and staying the extra time to clean up events. Her organizational skills have also kept our PTA books extra clean and concise. She brings a voice of reason, fun and community to everything she does. She has been an advocate for the voice of the PTA, a strong advocate for parents and students and a support for teachers and staff at Hoover. She is creative, energetic, and dedicated to making our school and community a place where students can grow and learn. She always has a smile on her face and Hoover is definitely a better place having Carmin and her family involved.

### **I Will Help**

I will help the school. I will help to pick up the trash. Will you pick up the trash? I will reuse my water bottle. Would you use a water bottle again? I will use both sides of my paper. I will recycle it in the right bin. Would you put the paper in the recycle bin? I will make sure when I use water I will turn it off when I am not using it. Will you help save water? I want everybody to do these things about changing the world.

*Ella Sochacki, Hoover, 1<sup>st</sup> grade*

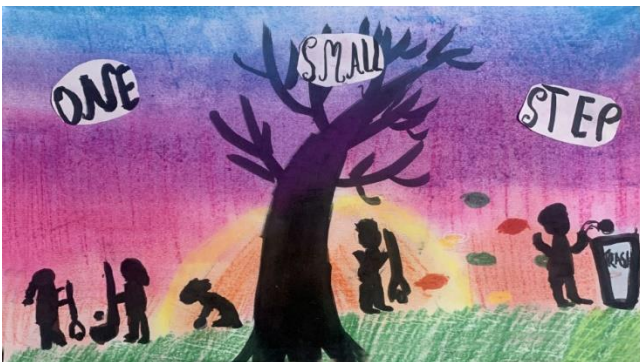
## **Jackson Center**

### **Staff** – Stacy Nichols

Hard-working, Kind, and Supportive member. Ms. Stacy, as the whole school knows her, is one of the most dedicated individuals who is always helping out in any way she can. As Jackson Center's Building Supervisor, she has been vital to keeping the building running and safe during Covid, as well as responding to each classroom's daily needs. On top of that, she is always willing to support the PTA and even helped unload and sort over 1,000 mums that were delivered to our back parking lot in September. This is just one example of how she always goes above and beyond for the school and supports everyone in the school community. We are so thankful for her!

### **Parent** – Erin Schrieber

Leader, Positive, Innovative, Problem-Solver member for six years. Six years ago, as a new member and mother to a toddler, Erin took on the role as Treasurer and subsequently three terms as President. When she thought she had finally "retired" from her position, she still took on a leadership role within Jackson Center PTA by setting up restaurant fundraisers and spirit wear orders while we all navigated a pandemic and how to best support the Jackson Center. She has returned to the PTA board this year as VP to support engagement and activities at Jackson Center despite Covid. Her dedication, collaboration with local partners, and commitment to the PTA and Jackson Center are unmatched. She is truly an amazing woman and parent.



*Vanya Srivastava,  
Webster, 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
"One Small Step"*

# Kennedy Elementary School

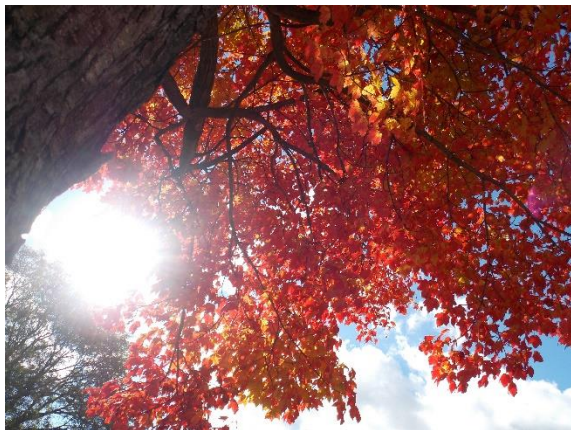
## **Staff** – Karyn Stoppa

Hard-working, Collaborative, Supportive, and Inclusive member for over four years. Karyn Stoppa, secretary at both Kennedy and Randolph, is committed to the betterment of our students. When her daughter was younger, Karyn was an active member of the PTA, and now that she works at the school, she continues to be a cheerleader for our PTA. She is always willing to pitch in and help out the PTA and our Kennedy community. Whether she helps with making copies for us, attending and helping at PTA events, helping staff members with tasks, or caring for the students, she does so readily. Karyn is a team player and she is committed to making sure communication among staff, PTA, and students is clear and timely. She is respectful of all of the different ideas bounced off of her and offers suggestions that are in the best interest of the students. Karyn includes all students and Kennedy PTA is proud to recognize her as our staff nominee for this year.

## **Parent** – Scott Marihugh

Helpful, Positive, Organized, and Creative member for four years. Kennedy PTA is proud to recognize Scott Marihugh. He is an active member and always willing to pitch in. Scott, a high school teacher, is a positive person and enjoys working with children/students. He has donated his time to DJ several events over the years. He interacts with the students and is a great male role model. His family attends and volunteers at PTA events and supports the staff at Kennedy. He leads through his involvement with the PTA, he is committed to bettering children's lives, and he wants the best for our community.

*Olivia Barth, Webster,  
5<sup>th</sup> grade  
“Such A Sight”*



# Niji Iro Japanese Immersion Elementary School

## **Staff** – Peggy Herrick

Dedicated, Positive, Nurturing, Engaging member for one year. She makes sure that every child is seen. She truly makes an effort to be inclusive for all of our families and shows curiosity and interest in our student's lives inside and outside of school. She's been supportive of our school's cultural programs and has actively engaged the PTA to support our events. She has been vital in supporting our students' mental wellness during this pandemic through physical activity as our P.E. teacher.

## **Parent** – Keiko Nakagawa

Excited, Committed, Dedicated, and Thoughtful member for one year. Keiko has really stepped up and took her role with heart and gusto and really rallied other parents who normally wouldn't have been as involved. She has great enthusiasm and serves as an amazing communication liaison for our large Japanese community. Even though her family is returning to Japan in a couple months and her time with the school is limited, she's been very active with the PTA, has really promoted the school, and continues to do a lot to feed the community.



*Haven Smith, Stevenson,  
9<sup>th</sup> grade*

*“A Light in the Dark”*

# **Randolph Elementary School**

## **Staff – Jen Wilson**

Caring, Loving, Thoughtful and Kind member for five years. Mrs. Wilson provides the ultimate care and support for our students at Randolph. She provides emotional support for the students and it has been needed more than ever these last couple of years, making her workload monumental and she tackles it with ease. She is a friendly face around the school to parents and is helpful to all of her colleagues throughout the building. She is a shining light at Randolph and we're lucky to have her!

## **Parent – Karen Batog**

Kind, Hard-working, Committed and Caring member for four years. Karen was recently hired at Randolph as a parapro for the kindergarten classrooms, however most days she stays at the school from start to finish taking on extra task after extra task from library help to recess duty and beyond. While she does have a paid position for part of her day, she willingly stays to help with whatever task is needed on any given day. She's the first to sign up for family activities and is an all-around excellent volunteer with so many tasks. She's a huge asset to the Randolph community and we're thankful to have her!

Claire Seidel,  
Hoover,  
Kindergarten

“Love All”



# Roosevelt Elementary School

## **Staff – Jody Stowell**

Supportive, Leader, Passionate, and Mentor member since 2006. Jody's collaboration with the Roosevelt Elementary is exceptional! She runs the canned food drive, Toys for Tots, helps with FHS food pantry and clothing depot, schedules the noon duty schedule, provides academic support and services to classroom teachers and classroom management. She works with classroom teachers to provide academic interventions and shows inclusivity. She has been committed to Roosevelt Elementary since 2006. She shows respect to every staff and student, and you can always look to Jody for being a mentor. She shows accountability and integrity in everything she does.

## **Parent – Crissy Krueger**

Creative, Friendly, Generous, Caring member for six years. Crissy's commitment to Roosevelt Elementary PTA has been strong in family and community engagement. She helps out in classrooms as a parent volunteer and collaborates with staff to ensure every child is supported. She is respectful and you can always count on her to show up and help as a Noon Monitor Mom in the lunchroom. She shows inclusivity and integrity in all she does. Has donated pumpkins and scarecrows as well as inflatables during the holidays to dress up the school for Halloween and Christmas. Crissy has helped volunteer for the Valentines Dance. Provided snacks and crafts for bus drivers, staff and support staff. We are very thankful for her friendly and creative talents.



*Aria Amolsch, Roosevelt,  
Kindergarten*

*“Mermaid-Tastic”*

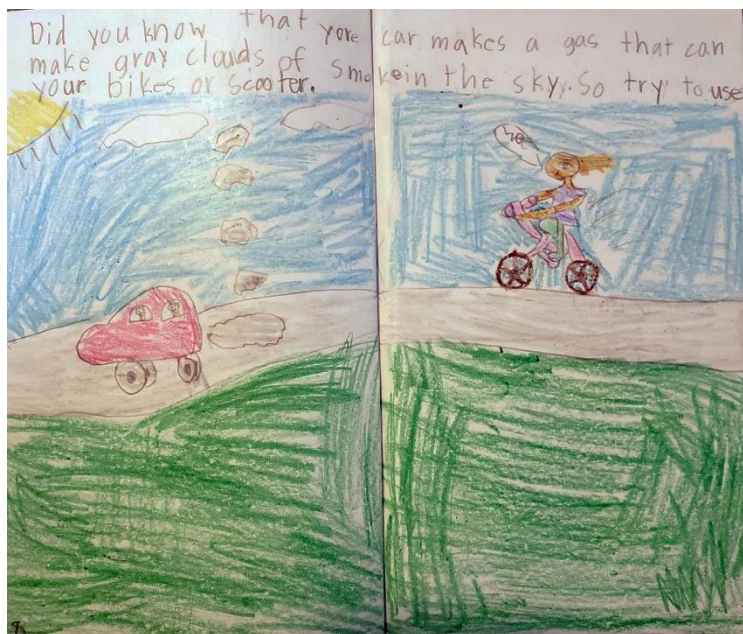
## Rosedale Elementary School

### **Staff** – Patricia Cooke

Kind, Respectful, Involved, and Committed member for three years. She is always ready to help us at any time. She comes to events ready to work. The students love her. She has been working on grants for the building and puts in a lot of time and energy to make these grants happen. She goes outside of her teacher role to help the PTA and the school.

### **Parent** – Angela Montgomery

Generous, Helpful, Kind and Involved member for four years. Angela is a first-time board member, before that she was always volunteering at events and came to most meetings. Has done extra services within the PTA this year. She is always looking for ways to help the kids and looks at events in a way the kids will enjoy them more. She always wants all kids to feel included. She is respectful toward staff and always willing to help them.



*Lydia  
Didlake,  
Grant, 3<sup>rd</sup>  
grade*

*A page from  
her  
literature  
piece, "I Can  
Change the  
World"*

# **Webster Elementary School**

## **Staff – Aaron Quinn**

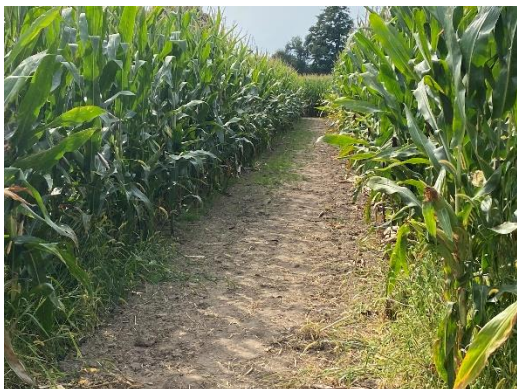
Supportive, Helpful, Prepared and Friendly member for seven years. As we all know, a strong partnership between the PTA and the custodian team is so necessary when planning events at the school. From our very first summer activity through our crazy fall and holiday season, our Building Supervisor, Mr. Aaron Quinn, was always ready to jump in and help without hesitation. No task is ever too big and he is never too busy to help the PTA. Our entire board is fairly new and Aaron has made sure to get to know us all and keep lines of communication open. As long as he has a task list, we can rely on him and his team to get things done so all runs smoothly! Aaron is very present at Webster, helping out everywhere. He will always greet you with a smile and our students think he's the best! On behalf of the PTA Board and Mrs. Boka, we sincerely thank you for all you do!

## **Parent – Liz Biddle**

Gentle, Generous, Loving and Kindhearted member for over two years. From the moment the Biddles joined our Webster Community, their support was noticed in numerous ways. Whether it was a kind message, generous donation of items needed to support our programs, supporting PTA events, or just a friendly hello, they were always living our motto of Caring Deeply. This was especially evident after the loss of our beloved teacher, Mr. John Waling. During a PTA meeting when discussing renaming the Webster PTA Scholarship to honor Mr.

Waling, Liz jumped at the chance to have her family fully fund the first year of the scholarship – WOW! Even though she cannot be at our

school routinely, she finds creative ways to stay connected to all things Webster. Webster is a better place because of Liz (and Jeremy) Biddle!



*Hardikhkumar Vijayakumar,  
Webster, 4<sup>th</sup> grade*

*“Green Clean Path”*

# **Livonia PTSA Council Executive Board**

## **2021-2022**

**President:** Mandy Gerstenbrand

**1st VP:** Debbie Pline

**2nd VP:** Kellie Dummer

**Treasurer:** Nicole Dant

**Recording Secretary:** Andrea Malenfant

**Corresponding Secretary:** Mike Testa

**Advocacy & Legislative:** Mike Testa

**Bylaws & Policies & Procedures:** Andrea Malenfant

**Chamber Liaison:** Kellie Dummer & Robb Drzewicki

**Clothing Depot:** Kellie Dummer & Lynda Scheel

**Diversity & Inclusion:** Debbie Yates

**ELVs:** Debbie Pline & Chris Chmura

**Founders' Day:** Kellie Dummer

**Fundraising:** OPEN

**Health & Welfare:** OPEN

**Male Engagement:** Robb Drzewicki

**Masterworks:** Kellie Dummer

**Membership:** Sara Bennett

**Newsletter:** Laura Ulaszek

**PEP:** Sara Bennett

**Reflections:** Andrea Malenfant & Debbie Yates

**STEM:** Nicole Dant & Patty Novak

**Website:** Debbie Yates

**YMAD:** Debbie Pline & Nikki Watson

## **Cooper Upper Elementary School**

### **Staff – Jessica Thimm**

Motivated, Dedicated, Innovative, and Helpful member for many years. Mrs. Thimm has been instrumental in developing ways to give students individual recognition at school. She has played a major role in developing the PBIS program at Cooper, celebrating students who follow through on school wide expectations. She also has personally created the Student of the Week program and the Golden Plate Award, giving classes the opportunity to win a “fine dining experience” for exceptional lunchroom behavior. Mrs. Thimm is always an advocate for all students and is willing to help in any way that benefits the students or the school.

### **Parent – Melissa Boyce**

Hero, Helpful, Resourceful, and Dedicated member for one year. Melissa volunteered to learn and take on the Treasurer position when we were in need a couple days before our first meeting. The treasurer position has been quite a challenge, to say the least, so far this year and Melissa has researched, attacked and solved every issue with zero complaints. Our executive board is beyond thankful for her willingness to step up and take on this position when we were in need. She has made it seem easy, but we know it has not been.

*Ashlynn Warner, Coolidge,  
4<sup>th</sup> grade*

*“Picking Up Trash”*



# **Johnson Upper Elementary School**

## **Staff – Judy Sartor**

Motivated, Helpful, Kind, and Engaged member for two years. In the two years that Judy has been at Johnson, she has gone above and beyond to support the students, staff, parents, and PTA each and every day. She faces challenges head on and offers a hand wherever and whenever it is needed. In the most chaotic of times, she takes charge and quickly learns whatever new skills are needed. She stays involved and knowledgeable in regard to our PTA events, fundraisers, and routine day-to-day operations. At a moment's notice, she'll jump in to help unload trucks of plants, food, or whatever else the PTA is currently selling. On a day-to-day basis, she is often the glue that holds things together.

## **Parent – Michelle Pawl**

Loyal, Engaged, Selfless, Kind member for four years. Despite her youngest child having moved on from Johnson two years ago, Michelle has remained a vital and valued member of the Johnson PTA board. These last two years have been especially challenging in terms of filling board positions and managing vacancies, which makes Michelle's willingness to help truly amazing. Her commitment to the students, staff, and those of us on the board has been limitless and profound. She exemplifies kindness and dedication in all that she does and never hesitates to offer support wherever and whenever it is needed. Michelle is an inspiration to us all and a true champion for all that PTA represents.

*Sriyansh Priyadarshi,  
Frost, 8<sup>th</sup> grade*

*"A Little Help Can  
Make a Large Impact"*



# **Riley Upper Elementary School**

## **Staff – Allison Gray**

Dedicated, Fun, Ambassador, and Cheerleader member for one year. Allison joined Riley this year as the new assistant principal and right away, she jumped in to help the PTA in any way she could. Especially when we decided to plan a last-minute fundraiser, the Turkey Trot. Allison came up with fun prize ideas, got the teachers and students excited about the event, and communicated with the PTA to make the event hugely successful. What really stood out was Allison's stellar communication. She always made sure to ask for updates, ensure emails were sent to families, and got the staff involved with incentivizing the kids to fundraise. The Turkey Trot would not have been as amazing without you, Ms. Gray.

## **Parent – Julie Aitken**

Committed, Dependable, Leader, and Kind member for one year. Like many PTA units, Riley's PTA board has found it difficult during these pandemic years to solicit volunteers. With a small board, we were afraid that we would have to limit activities this year. When we decided to throw together a last-minute Turkey Trot "Fun Run," we sent an email to Riley families asking for help. Julie raised her hand and said, "I have never chaired an event for PTA, but I can help in any way I can" and she took off from there. Julie chaired a successful Turkey Trot but also added a ton of fun ideas, prizes, and the kids at Riley had a blast fundraising. Julie was a joy to work with and was so dedicated to giving the Riley Wildcats a great event despite Covid limitations. Thank you, Julie!



*Grace Stansell, Riley,  
6<sup>th</sup> grade*

*Clip from dance piece  
"Only Survivor"*

# Emerson Middle School

## **Staff** – Art Colling

Enthusiastic, Hardworking, Thorough, and Considerate member for many years. Mr. Colling is our partner. He interacts with families in the PTSA Facebook group, he promotes our events on the Emerson website and Facebook page, and he works directly with us for our yard sign sales – driving the communication aimed directly at applicable families.

## **Parent** – Beth Brown

Honest, Reliable, and Trustworthy member for two years. Beth Brown has been a huge support to the Emerson PTSA and every PTA at each school her son has attended (Grant and Cooper). She is knowledgeable, trustworthy, honest and operates with the highest integrity without making things difficult for anyone. She always knows what's going on and every board she's been on is so lucky to have her!

## **Student** – Owen M. Brown

Dedicated, Studious, Considerate, Helpful member for two years. There aren't a lot of opportunities for middle school students to get involved with the PTSA, but Owen has managed to help at a few events, even though Covid significantly decreased those opportunities. He's helped with Welcome Back sidewalk chalking, has attended some General Membership Meetings, and even helped at the 2021 Track & Field City Meet.

*Emma Berriman,  
Emerson,  
7<sup>th</sup> grade*

*Clip from dance  
piece "Change"*



# **Frost Middle School**

## **Staff – Heather Roosevelt**

Ambassador, Insightful, Caring, and Helpful member for three years. Heather is our PTSA teacher liaison and is gifted at keeping the PTSA connected to the staff. Heather has been such an asset to our unit as she has been faithful in attending our meetings and updating the staff. She also brings items to our attention that concern the staff. Heather cares deeply about the Frost Community and has great insight as she contributes to our meetings. She is an individual who has taken the time to share her expertise to support, guide, empower and uplift others at Frost. We are so thankful to have Heather as a gifted teacher as well as part of our PTSA.

## **Parent – Chris Aljets**

Chris is a joy to have on our team. She has been serving the district and PTSA in many capacities for 10 years. She diligently works hard to get things done and get them done well. Chris is always willing to step into whatever is needed and fill the gaps to make sure all the bases are covered. She has the unique ability to get along with everyone and make people feel comfortable! We are all so thankful for her and her willingness to continue to serve on PTSA!

## **Student – Kaitlyn Perrin**

Dedicated, Collaborative, Positive, Proactive member for two years. Kaitlyn attended several of our virtual meetings last year as a representative of Student Council. She is a dedicated member of Student Council and is currently serving as Vice President of Publicity. Kaitlyn is also involved in Robotics and Volleyball at Frost. She is hard working, eager to help, and always smiling. Kaitlyn is a wonderful representation of student leadership.



*Nithin Ramkumar, Frost,  
8<sup>th</sup> grade*

*“You Just Have to Care”*

# Holmes Middle School

## **Staff** – John Farkas

Energetic, Committed, Caring, and Compassionate member for more than 15 years. John Farkas exemplifies the values of the PTSA with his integrity, collaboration and commitment to the entire Holmes community. He is kind, accessible, enthusiastic and caring. John makes himself available to students, staff and parents who need him. He is involved in committees and activities around the school, and he demonstrates an unwavering commitment to his students.

## **Parent** – Madeline Acosta

Kind, Helpful, Dedicated, Passionate member for four years. Madeline has shown her dedication to the students and staff of Holmes Middle School with her commitment to the PTSA. She has served on the board in the past and continues to give willingly of her time to the PTSA and the school. We are thankful for all she does.

## **Student** – Nickolas Finch

Respectful, Kind, Intelligent, and Helpful member for one year. Nickolas Finch exemplifies the values of the PTSA by showing integrity, respect and commitment. We know that being a student during these difficult times is hard on our kids. Nickolas shows his commitment to learning, respect to the entire Holmes community and integrity by the choices he makes each day in class, in the hallways and during activities.

*Isla Rodriguez, Holmes, 7<sup>th</sup> grade*

*“Find the Light”*



# **Churchill High School**

## **Staff – Kristen Spencer**

Warm, Supportive, Nurturing, and Caring member for many years. Mrs. Kristen Spencer teaches in the Center program at Churchill. She has worked many, many hours to help the Center program students start an in-school coffee shop. Students gain invaluable experience learning to run a business: from reading orders to making coffee to delivering their product. It's coffee we can all feel good about! Each year, the Charger Coffee business has grown and developed in the number of students trained, adding in a delivery service, expanding the number of hours available for delivery, creating their own logo, offering re-usable mugs, adding alternative milk options and now even offering cookies. It's amazing what this small business can accomplish in just an hour or two of class time each day and none of this would be possible without the vision and dedication of Kristen!

## **Parent – Alicia Densel**

Lively, Caring, Creative, and Welcoming member for three years. Alicia Densel is Vice President of Churchill PTSA and a longtime member of both Frost and Webster PTAs. She brings energy, enthusiasm and a willingness to try out new ideas. Alicia is heading up our new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee – working to define its role and shape its future. She truly cares about every student having a sense of community and feeling included. Alicia has a warm sense of humor, providing a lightness to our events and meetings along with the perfect personality for welcoming newcomers into our activities. She is highly committed to seeking out ways to support students and staff and willing to put in extra time to help when needed. It is a privilege to present this award to her today!

## **Student – Anna Novak**

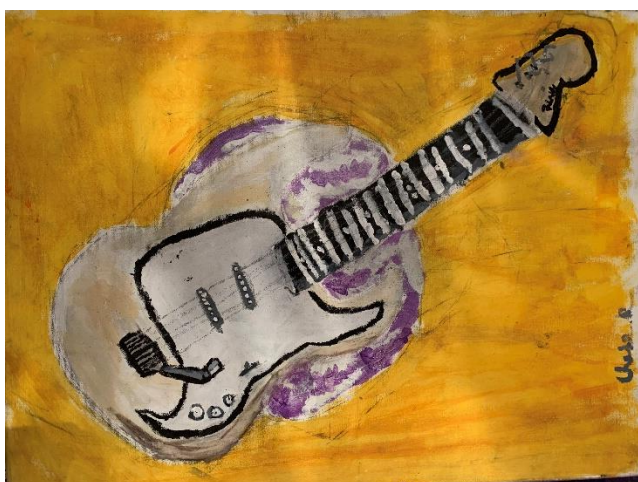
Exemplary, Diligent, Responsible and Reliable member for four years. Anna Novak is in her second year as our student representative from Student Council to Churchill PTSA. In this appointed role, she attends our General Meetings and shares information from PTSA with Student Council through their group chat, their meetings and by sharing a selection of our social media posts. Anna is a highly dedicated student who demonstrates how to balance service with schoolwork. She has

helped work our recruiting table at Open House, pulled weeds and watered PTSA's new landscaping areas, offered the student perspective on certain decisions, and encouraged more student membership and participation in PTSA. Anna has also participated in the PTSA Council's Reflections program for many years now and her photos have been chosen to represent Livonia in the state program. Anna leads by example and does not seek credit for her accomplishments. Whether in the classroom, Marching Band, Student Council, Robotics team or Tennis team, Anna works diligently to foster communities of collaborators and especially enjoys helping underclassmen develop as leaders.



*Lauren Pline,  
Churchill,  
12<sup>th</sup> grade  
"The Serenity of  
Nature"*

*Chase Reynolds,  
Churchill, 10<sup>th</sup> grade  
"Hendrix"*



# **Franklin High School**

## **Staff – Sam Vomastek**

Helpful, Swift, Collaborative, and Friendly member for several years. Over the past few years, Sam has been great at working with the PTSA to help promote events, fundraisers, and membership contests. Along with teaching, he is in charge of the school social media pages and the school website. He quickly updates and shares any PTSA information posted, even on the weekends and nights and without being asked to. Especially at the secondary level, having school support is one of the things that helps PTSA thrive and Sam is a piece to that puzzle. Even with the turnover in PTSA board members each year he is helpful to all.

## **Parent – Cheryl Shackelford**

Resourceful, Supportive, Caring, and Dependable member for three years at Franklin but involved for many years. Cheryl has been a valuable member of the PTSA board for three years at Franklin. Beyond that, Cheryl has been a dedicated volunteer for PTA since her kids were in elementary school. Whenever our board needs someone to seek business donations, Cheryl is our girl. Over the years, she has been able to get companies to donate tons of items and money. She always keeps the kids in mind when suggesting fun activities or when thinking about fundraisers. Even as her work hours have increased Cheryl has still found a way to help out whenever she can. Many have been lucky to work with her on all these PTA boards and count her as a good friend and devoted volunteer.

## **Student – Kailyn Benson**

Motivated, Dedicated, Positive, and Leader member for four years. Kailyn Benson's commitment to Franklin High School, its students, staff and community is vast. Kailyn is a very active four-year member of Student Congress and is currently the senior student body Vice President. She has worked numerous hours over the last four years being a part of the dance committee, blood drives and parent teacher conferences. She takes initiative and is extremely motivated. She is a natural leader and is currently one of the captains on the Varsity Pom Pon team. Kailyn regularly attends PTSA meetings and is a contributing member. On top of all the activities she does within

Franklin and the community, Kailyn is an excellent student and holds herself accountable for maintaining her 3.97 GPA while taking two AP classes. She is also a member of the National Honor Society and Patriots Relate (helping acclimate freshman students to Franklin). The Franklin PTSA is proud to honor Kailyn Benson as our Class of 2022 student honoree.

## **Stevenson High School**

### **Staff** – Nancy Thursam

Diligent, Impartial, Resourceful, and Reliable member for more than six years. Ms. Thursam is at every monthly meeting. She never fails to bring informative topics to the PTSA meetings. By being informed, we are included, which helps us know how we can better help the school's parents, teachers and students.

### **Parent** – Sally Duffy

Courteous, Practical, Sincere, and Rational member for more than six years. When reviewing past years' PTSA books, Sally's name is always there with her chairing and volunteering for SHS events. Sally is a person to be counted on when needed. Such an easy disposition and caring person. She is a great example for other parents to get involved.

### **Student** – Katherine Stromberg

Passionate, Reliable, Sensible, and Considerate member for 1 year. In the time we have gotten to know Katie, she has been a constant student to be looked up to. Her school involvement, and now with PTSA, she has helped bridge a gap between parents, teachers and students. As part of Student Senate, Katie keeps the PTSA in the know. She is an active member of the Stevenson community in various areas such as drama, choir, student government and Global Education. She is a leader in and out of the classroom.

*Lukus Kroger, Stevenson,*



*9<sup>th</sup> grade, "Climate Change"*

## **Important PTSA Council Dates for 2022**

**4/20** Executive Board Meeting | 6-7 p.m. | BOE office

**4/20** General Membership Meeting & Elections |  
7-8 p.m. | BOE office

**TBD** Youth Making A Difference Celebration

**5/18** Officer Training Workshop | 6-8 p.m. | TBD

**6/15** Executive Board Meeting | 6-7 p.m. | BOE office

**7/20** 2022 Audit Party | 6-8 p.m. | Board Room, BOE  
office (downstairs)

**Council generally meets on the THIRD WEDNESDAY of the month.** PTSA Council suggests the following meeting schedule for units to minimize meeting/date conflicts:

First Week – Lower Elementary

Second Week – Upper Elementary

Third Week – Middle School

Fourth Week – High School

## Livonia PTSA Past Council Presidents

2018-2020	Kellie Dummer
2016-2018	Joanne Hayes
2014-2016	Julie Thompson
2012-2014	Liz Jarvis
2010-2012	Heather Broos
2008-2010	Heidy Nance
2006-2008	Jerilyn Petersmark
2004-2006	Pat Larson
2002-2004	Judee Taormina
2000-2002	Lynda Scheel
1998-2000	Nancy Stramecki
1996-1998	Christine Walczyk
1994-1996	Joyce Galindo
1992-1994	Karen Holmes
1990-1992	Kathy Kalousek
1988-1990	Sue Thompson
1986-1988	Bev Wesner

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