

Livonia **PTSA**® Council

70th Annual Founders' Day

"I Am Hopeful Because ..."



February 21, 2024

St. Mary's Cultural Center | Livonia, Michigan

Advocate • Communicate • Support

www.livoniaptsacouncil.org

2024 PTA Reflections

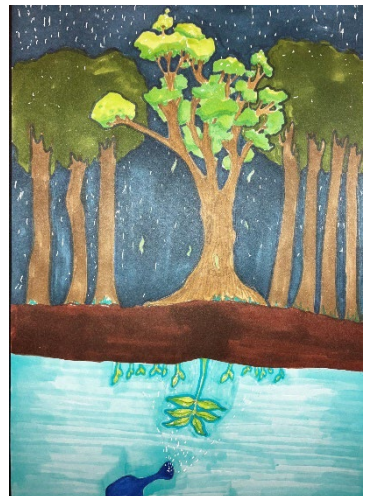


"A Farmer's Day" ~ Erdisa Zekaj, 11th grade, Stevenson

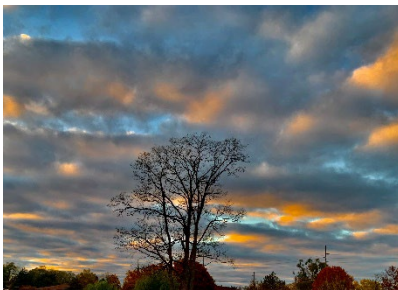


*"Women's Rights"
Arya Hilla
3rd grade, Webster*

*"Patience is Key"
Jia Mhatre
7th grade, Frost*



*"Tree's
Hope"
Nethra*



Shanmugavelu, 2nd grade, Webster

*Enjoy other award-winning pieces
throughout the booklet*

[illegible]

strong advocate for public

Earst and Alice McLellan
Congress of Colored Parents

were women of imagination
power of individual action

Founders' Day Celebration Program

5:30 p.m.	Check In
6:00 p.m.	Franklin Bel Canto Choir <i>under the direction of Marilee Olsen</i>
Welcome	Andrea Malenfant Livonia PTSA Council President
Remarks	Andrea Oquist Superintendent Tonya Whitehead Michigan PTA President-Elect
6:30 p.m.	Dinner – Buffet Style
7:15 p.m.	Awards Ceremony
Closing Remarks	Andrea Malenfant

Cover artwork ~

Elaine DeGrand

3rd grade, Webster Elementary

Visual Arts Award of Excellence

“I Am Hopeful Because Everyone Deserves Peace”

Enjoy other award-winning pieces throughout the booklet.

2023-2024 Livonia Public Schools Elementary Educator of the Year

Amy Chapman-Pinta

Amy Chapman-Pinta is a 24-year veteran educator in Livonia Public Schools, where she has served the past nine years as an Elementary Support Teacher at Grant Elementary School.

As an EST, she provides caring and personalized support to students who have a variety of needs, including medical issues that can have an impact on a child's school day. When she is not managing medical plans for students, she provides academic, social-emotional and behavioral support. For many students at Grant Elementary, she is their "go to" trusted adult at the school. She makes them feel safe, cared for, and is truly committed to their physical wellbeing as well as their emotional and academic growth.

Amy is known as a "floor sweeper," who stands at-the-ready to jump into any situation and offer her assistance. As an EST, Amy wears many "hats" at Grant Elementary, which is exactly how she prefers to contribute to her school community. In all that she does, Amy is nurturing and has a gift for pouring confidence and positivity into every student with whom she works. Her philosophy in working with children is to "listen, help, care, teach, respect, and love."



2023-2024 Livonia Public Schools Secondary Educator of the Year



Terri Bennett

Terri Bennett is a 32-year veteran teacher in Livonia Public Schools, having taught Mathematics for 31 at Franklin High School.

She is known for not only her teaching expertise, but also for her ability to weave life lessons and build strong relationships with students in her classroom.

Terri is an advocate for all types of learners, from Advanced Placement Calculus students to Algebra 1 students who need extra support. Although she has been teaching various mathematics courses for more than three decades, she is constantly revamping her instructional practices by utilizing technology to engage her students in their learning. She is known to go out of her way to ensure her students are learning. She builds relationships with students, so they know that they are cared for and that she has great confidence in them as learners and as human beings. Many students have called her their “best teacher, ever!”

Terri’s teaching philosophy centers around the connections she makes with her students. She instills the confidence they need to be successful in mathematics, while always searching for that “lightbulb moment” in her students. She knows that those moments only come after her students feel supported and heard.

2023-2024 Livonia Public Schools Support Staff of the Year



Krystal Reid

Krystal Reid is in her sixth year serving as a paraprofessional in the Western Wayne Skill Center program at Garfield Community School. Working in the Skill Center program allows Krystal to daily utilize her natural empathetic, respectful

and caring qualities with her students, all of whom have special needs and are in the age range of 18-26.

She is known as a paraprofessional who can always be counted on to give her best effort in a way that bolsters her students' confidence, sense of security and their dignity as they work to achieve greater independence each day.

Krystal approaches her work with the simple philosophy, "Every student, every day, no matter what." She goes above and beyond to support the needs of her students by building skills in them with a gentle hand of support and encouragement. She is known for being dedicated, empathetic, respectful and creative.

Even after six years in her role, Krystal continues to "learn on the job" and seeks new ways to connect, support and inspire the students with whom she works each day. Her colleagues call it a privilege to work with her and many say that they have become better teachers by working alongside Krystal.

Thank you to Our Local PTA & PTSA Units!

2023-2024 Livonia PTA/PTSA Presidents & Principals

<u>Unit</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Principal</u>
Buchanan	Katherine Klann	Jen Wilson
Churchill	Lauren Peters	Kristen Quesada
Cleveland	Mandy Gerstenbrand	Shalonda Owens
Coolidge	Holli Kerkhof	Kristina Collyer
Cooper	Christina Engler	Rob Witherspoon
Emerson	Heather Poisson	Bruce Rivera
Franklin	Melissa Boyce	Andrew Pesci
Frost	Melissa Raveed	Shanan Wheeler
Grant	Amy Wikelius	Sherri Mazzoni
Hayes	Rachel Wright	Larry Grezak
Holmes	Vanessa Davis	Roger Opsommer
Hoover	Danielle Brandon	Mike Daraskavich
Jackson Center	Jason Sabbagh	Katie Dodge
Johnson	Julie Turk	Tom Traub
Kennedy	Kelly Keith	Nicole Hunter
Niji-Iro	Nicole Farrackand	Lawrence DeLuca
Randolph	Pamela McGinnis	Julie Linn
Riley	Jill Allevato	Jonathon Wennstrom
Roosevelt	Jennifer Wood	Diana Shahin
Rosedale	Andrea Rutkowski	Paula Kohler
Stevenson	Dawn Williams	Pete Mazzoni
Webster	Sarah Pelletier	Kristyn Cousino

2023-2024 Distinguished PTA/PTSA Parents, Staff and Students

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.

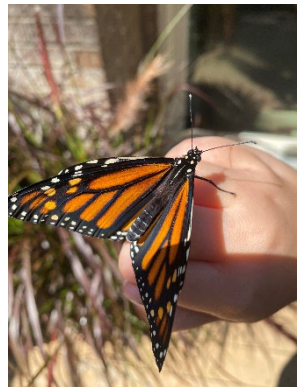
Buchanan Elementary School

Staff – Terri Rentis

Dedicated, Kind, Patient, Supportive member for three years. Terri is the first face that you see when you walk into Buchanan Elementary. She answers the phones, coordinates with the staff, calls the parents, fixes the boo boos, gets the ice packs, etc. She has been an asset to Buchanan over the years and can probably name every single student and almost every single parent. Her dedication to her job and the students is why the PTA at Buchanan has picked her as this year's honoree. She goes above and beyond at every event and everything day to day. Terri is one of the best secretaries that Buchanan has ever had and goes above and beyond on a daily basis to make the kids feel welcome and cared for when they are not feeling well, as well as being the perfect liaison between us and the staff. She is one of Buchanan Elementary's greatest assets and we are so glad that she is chosen this school as her home.

Parent – Katie Klann

Dependable, Compassionate, Generous, Sincere member for five years. Katie has been involved in the PTA at Buchanan since her son was in kindergarten. She has been a parliamentarian, recording secretary, and is currently in her second year as president. Throughout these years, Katie has been a dependable and extremely generous presence. When she isn't working or spending time with her family, she is donating her time and energy to fundraising and planning, always with the goal of supporting Buchanan's students and staff. Katie was instrumental in helping our school get through the pandemic and has helped bring back many of the events that were canceled those few years, including her favorite event, the Boo-Bash Trunk-or-Treat, which she helped make a free event for all attendees! Katie is always thinking of others and is a constant reminder of the reason why we do what we do: to advocate for the education and well-being of every child. We are so lucky to have her in our lives!



“Their Future is in Our Hands,” Ella King, 5th grade, Riley

Cleveland Elementary School

Staff – Marie Honicker

Creative, Kind, Giving, Talented member for one year. Ms. Honicker has been an invaluable addition to our Cleveland family this year - since day one she has been supporting our PTA by attending meetings, volunteering at events, and heading up our Reflections program, which has seen a significant increase in participation! She has made our school community a beautiful place to call home by displaying student artwork and doing special projects with her enrichment classes. We are so glad to have her as part of our team!

Parent – Angi Savage

Dedicated, Enthusiastic, Helpful, Generous member for three years. Angi is always one of the first people to volunteer for PTA events. She regularly attends meetings and offers great suggestions and ideas. We launched several new events this year, and Angi has been an integral part of the planning and success of each one. We are so thankful for her support and we're delighted to honor her!



“Spirits on the Beach” ~ Levi Yates, 10th grade, Franklin

Coolidge Elementary School

Staff – Kellie Stark

Creative, Inspiring, Dedicated, Energetic member for many years. Kellie is a constant support of Coolidge and LPS. She is an integral part of the Reflections committee and consistently puts forth a huge effort in making Reflections a priority for her students! She helps at our Fall Fest and any project/event the PTA or school hosts. She offers her own time for so many activities and including our garden club. We can't thank her enough!

Parent – Jenna Kuhn

Helpful, Kind-Hearted, Organized, Committed member for three years. Jenna has been selflessly serving our staff and students in several capacities over the last few years. She is a volunteer for school and PTA functions. She never does it for the recognition. She does it to make a difference for the families at Coolidge. Thank you for your service, Jenna!



“Super Long Cat”

Julia Street

Kindergarten

Coolidge Elementary

*“I’m A Zookeeper”
Maverick Broomfield
Kindergarten,
Roosevelt Elementary*



Grant Elementary School

Staff – Katie Adams

Friendly, Helpful, Funny, Big-hearted member for nine years. Mrs. Adams may be a first-year classroom teacher, but she has been a regular fixture at Grant for years, both as a parent and substitute teacher. While she has always been a big school and PTA supporter, this year she has gone above and beyond. She comes to all events, to the delight of her students, and always asks how she can help. She also does an incredible job promoting our events and fundraisers to her students and families. Thank you for your continued support, Mrs. Adams! We're so happy to have you on Team Grant!

Parent – Sara Reuter

Caring, Helpful, Kind, Fun member for seven years. When asked which parent we wanted to recognize this year, Sara was the unanimous choice. Not only does she rarely miss a PTA meeting, but she is always the first to volunteer. Her famous line to the board is “I will do whatever you need me to do,” and she stays true to her words. From selling spirit sticks at all our events to stuffing bags for hours at our monthly popcorn days, she is there with a smile on her face. Sara, we are so grateful for you — thank you for all you do!



“Hope for the Seasons” ~ Adriana Nadong, 10th grade, Franklin

Hayes Elementary School

Staff – Christine Lakatos

Dedicated, Joyous, Leader, Caring member for 10 years. Mrs. Lakatos exemplifies our school values and never asks for anything in return. She once took a day off to pick up a bench our school earned as a green school project. If you ask some other staff what they'd say about her this is what they'd tell you: "Christine flies under the radar. The amount of time she puts into our kids, both on and off the clock, is truly amazing." "She puts so much effort in to make our school colorful and earth friendly!" "She has a way with her students that really helps them feel comfortable being themselves." She is always willing to lend a hand with PTA when needed and in years prior has even taken on committees like YMAD.

Parent – Karen Norman

Kind, Giving, Cheerful, Helpful member for six years. Karen has been a faithful PTA volunteer over the years, helping with several events, even when she does not sign up to do so. She is always donating to help make our activities successful. She is always bringing teachers treats throughout the day to help put smiles on their faces. Last year, she was even kind enough to supply the PTA board with food to eat during our trunk or treat event. She continually checks our Sign-up Genius to fill in gaps where we are lacking volunteers! She's always there with a smile on her face even though she has her own silent battles. We often kid Karen that she needs to just join the board and become one of us already.



"Picture of My Pretty Cat"

Juliette Sutela, Kindergarten, Hayes Elementary

Hoover Elementary School

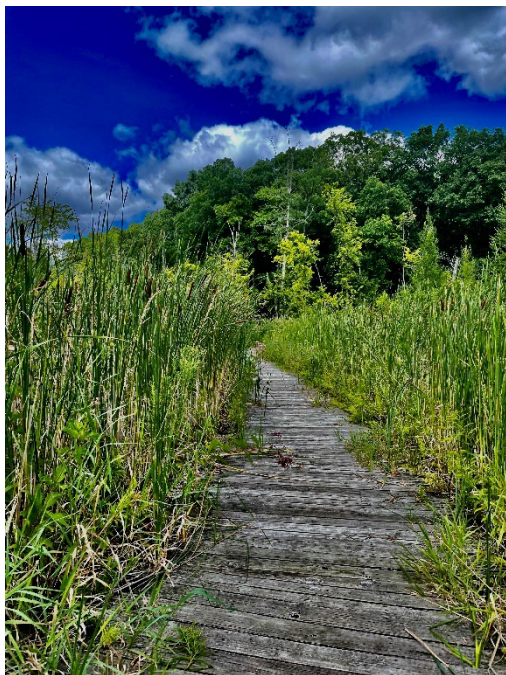
Staff – Janice Filiatraut

Enthusiastic, Helpful, Kind, Positive member for four years. Mrs. Filiatraut has been a teacher at Hoover for four years. She embodies the Hoover Rockets “SOAR” mission daily. She is a kind presence in the building, helps students overcome challenges, and encourages everyone to do their best. She is a beloved teacher, always has a smile on her face, and is a supporter of the PTA. Outside of making her classroom a fun place to learn, she can be found organizing the Hoover RoboRockets, the 4th grade Robotics team. We are lucky to have the Robotics team at Hoover and even luckier to have Mrs. Filiatraut running the program. She attends PTA meetings, helps at events, and is always positive and encouraging. We are honored to have Mrs. Filiatraut as a teacher at Hoover!

Parent – Spencer Lane

Hard-working, Dedicated, Helpful, Supportive member for one year. Spencer has been a standout volunteer for the Hoover PTA. Spencer, a dad of three Hoover Rockets, gives of his time to help as a PAL in the cafeteria at lunchtime and is one of our most frequent volunteers. He also helped at our big fundraiser in the fall, our Color Run. Not only was

he a volunteer for this event, but he was also not afraid to get his hands dirty (literally)! Our events cannot run without volunteers, and he is a huge help! The kids enjoy seeing him as a volunteer and the PTA appreciates his dedication!



*“The Boardwalk”
Benjamin Burke, 6th grade
Riley Upper Elementary*

Jackson Center

Staff – Amy Nichols

Dedicated, Enthusiastic, Inclusive, Kind member for one year. Amy has made an incredible impact as our Team Leader.

Parent – Carol Miles

Committed, Caring, Organized, Patient member for one year. Carol has transformed the Jackson Center Library into a true Enrichment Room. She volunteers with us three days per week and the children (and staff as well) love to spend time with her.

Kennedy Elementary School

Staff – Jane Katsaros

Dedicated, Collaborative, Inclusive, Appreciated member for 17 years. Jane, second grade teacher at Kennedy Elementary, is committed to the betterment of our students. She exemplifies PTA values by her dedication to the students and her efforts toward creating a comprehensive and inclusive learning experience. She recognizes the individual student's different needs and learning capabilities and puts forth tremendous effort to support them as they thrive and grow. She recognizes that the child and family supported together creates synergy, and a stronger sense of community within the school. Jane is a dedicated teacher, and the PTA is so grateful for her unrelenting support of the Kennedy community!

Parent – Lauren Maxwell

Dedicated, Supportive, Insightful, Kind member for two years. Lauren is a considerate and involved member of our PTA. She has given her time and efforts as the lead for Mileage club. She has brought enthusiasm and insights for how to better support this program in our school. Lauren is always ready to volunteer and lend a helping hand. She actively voices support and encouragement for our PTA and students on our social media platforms as well as in-person. Having Lauren as a member of our PTA makes us stronger as a unit. We find her to be thoughtful and insightful about her contributions and a genuinely kind person.

Niji Iro Japanese Immersion Elementary School

Staff – Ai Ameyaw

Diligent, Generous, Loyal, Patient member. Ai has always been heavily involved in Niji-Iro Elementary's transition to becoming a Livonia Public School from a charter school, freely giving her knowledge, time and bilingual skills to assist families and students entering our school or those considering attending our school in the future. She has even traveled to Japan to make connections with families and spread the word about our unique school. As a music teacher, she has organized beautiful music concerts where families get to experience the students' singing in both English and Japanese.

Parent – Matt Dudzinski

Dependable, Present, Humble, Skillful member for a long time. Matt has been an integral part of Niji-Iro Elementary blossoming in the way it has over the last several years. He has always been eager to actively support the PTA and all the Niji-Iro multi-cultural events, always lending his many, many talented skills in all directions, even bringing his A-game to the chili cook-off and receiving an award for "Best Dressed" last year. He continues to inspire us all with his dedication and commitment to improving our school and the experiences of our students and families year after year.

*“Be Mindful of the
Rainbow”*

Avianna Ali

1st grade, Kennedy



Randolph Elementary School

Staff – Jan Bice

Caring, Dedicated, Innovative, Nurturing member for two years. Jan Bice is an Elementary Support Teacher at Randolph Elementary School, whose unwavering commitment and exceptional dedication have elevated her role far beyond expectations. Jan goes above and beyond to create an enriching learning environment for her students. With boundless patience and a genuine passion for education, she tailors her approach to meet the diverse needs of each child, fostering a sense of inclusion and support. Jan is not just a teacher but a mentor, advocate, and ally for her students. Recognizing that every child learns differently, she employs innovative teaching strategies, incorporating hands-on activities and personalized lesson plans to ensure that each student thrives academically and emotionally. Her tireless efforts extend beyond the classroom, as Jan collaborates with parents, fellow teachers, and support staff to create a holistic student support system. What sets Jan apart is her genuine care for the well-being of her students. Whether it's providing emotional support or celebrating each small achievement, she consistently goes the extra mile. Jan is not just an Elementary Support Teacher, she is a beacon of inspiration, fostering a love for learning and confidence in the students at Randolph Elementary School.

Parent – Jessica Johnston

Energetic, Dedicated, Inclusive, Charismatic member for four years. Jessica is an exceptional parent dedicated to fostering a vibrant and supportive school community as the Dine-to-Donate chairperson for the Randolph Elementary PTA. Jessica's commitment to enhancing the school experience is truly remarkable. As the driving force behind the Dine-to-Donate initiative, she orchestrates fundraisers that not only raise funds for the school but also unite families and local businesses. Jessica's enthusiasm extends beyond her role as chairperson; she has a consistent presence at PTA meetings, contributing innovative ideas and valuable insights. Her passion for education and community shines through as she actively engages with fellow parents, teachers, and administrators. Jessica's charismatic personality and positive energy bring a contagious spirit to Randolph PTA meetings, inspiring others to get involved. With a keen sense of

organization and a warm, inclusive approach, Jessica has created a welcoming atmosphere within the PTA. Her efforts go beyond the administrative tasks; she cultivates a sense of belonging and collaboration among parents, creating a strong foundation for the entire school community. In her role as Dine-to-Donate chairperson and active PTA participant, Jessica embodies the essence of parental dedication, leaving an indelible mark on the Randolph PTA.

Roosevelt Elementary School

Staff – Jeff Graham

Positive, Helpful, Hardworking member for many years. Mr. Graham works closely with our PTA and offers his constant support and assistance. Whether it is during school hours or after, he always makes sure we have everything we need from setting up garbage cans, moving heavy items around and giving us access after-hours for various events and more! He has a great positive attitude and is always there with a smile. Mr. Graham is a vital part of the Roosevelt and PTA family; we feel very lucky and fortunate to have him on staff.

Parent – Jennifer Wood

Fun-loving, Helpful, Resourceful, Dedicated member for seven years. She diligently works hard to get things done exceptionally well. Jennifer is always willing to step into any situation if needed to make sure everything runs smoothly. Her passion and dedication for our students is something to be admired. She is a great leader and partner who leads by example, with an infectious attitude that creates a positive atmosphere no matter the situation. She has been a huge asset to our Roosevelt community, and we are very thankful to have her!

Clips from film:

“All My Hope”

Weston Makiwski

1st grade, Hoover



Rosedale Elementary School

Staff – Lynn Merchant

Selfless, Giving, Caring, Sweet member for a very long time. Lynn puts the "T" in PTA! She is truly an integral part of our organization – always willing to lend a hand, a tablecloth, cookies ... whatever is needed. When our holiday shop inventory was low, she fabulously took on the role of Santa's Helper to get us restocked after she had spent all day teaching. We truly appreciate her partnership!

Parent – Emily Moss

Helpful, Attentive, Caring, Dedicated member for two years. Emily went above and beyond to assist with an event. She saw there was a lack of help and stayed all day. She jumps in wherever needed and we sincerely appreciate her!

Webster Elementary School

Staff – Terry Macek

Witty, Genuine, Advocate, Compassionate member for 29 years. Mrs. Macek is a champion for students, staff and the PTA at Webster. She encourages students to participate in our activities, promotes collaboration between families and the PTA each week in her weekly emails and supports the PTA by physically attending each of our monthly meetings. Her commitment to our students' educational success, as well as their social and emotional growth, is evident in her teaching style. As a teacher to Webster 5th and 6th grades for the past 29 years, she demands respect yet often can be found singing, dancing or cracking jokes to get her point across. Inclusion is something that comes naturally to her, and students always feel welcome in her room. The Webster PTA is honored to have Mrs. Macek as a member and is proud to recognize her as our Distinguished Staff Member of the Year.

Parent – Sarah Pelletier

Humble, Dedicated, Compassionate, Creative member for 5 years. Sarah has been involved at Webster Elementary for almost five years and a board member for three years, including recording secretary

and president. In her first two years as Recording Secretary, she was always prepared for every meeting and task that the role encompassed. Not only was she an amazing secretary, but she also went above and beyond with multiple committees, ALL of our social media posts and lending a helping hand whenever needed. When tasked with becoming president of the PTA this past year, the board was so grateful for her ability to take on this role as we knew her strengths made her the perfect president for our school. In everything Sarah does, it is with the utmost passion and dedication to our school. She is creative, humble, and compassionate, making her a wonderful friend to all who know her. We are truly honored to nominate Sarah as our parent nominee for this year's Founders' Day. Thank you for all your time, effort, and dedication to Webster Elementary. You truly make our school a better place for all our students.



*“Nature is
Still
Beautiful”*

*Emily
Constant
6th grade
Webster*

Livonia PTSA Council Executive Board

2023-2024

President: Andrea Malenfant

1st VP:

2nd VP: Mandy Gerstenbrand

Treasurer: Debbie Pline

Recording Secretary: Kellie Dummer

Corresponding Secretary: Laura Ulaszek

Advocacy & Legislative: Mike Testa

Art of Problem Solving (APS): Patty Novak

Bylaws & Policies & Procedures: Andrea Malenfant

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging: Debbie Yates

ELVs: Debbie Pline

Founders' Day: Mandy Gerstenbrand

Fundraising: OPEN

Health & Welfare: OPEN

Male Engagement: OPEN

Masterworks: OPEN

Membership: Nicole Dant

Newsletter: Laura Ulaszek

PEP: Sara Bennett

Reflections: Monique Cadoret & Megan Moore

STEM: Patty Novak

Website: Laura Ulaszek & Debbie Yates

YMAD: Debbie Pline

Cooper Upper Elementary School

Staff – Jessica Thimm

We are beyond grateful to have such a wonderful role model and leader who is creative and innovative like Ms. Thimm. Her many years as an educator at Cooper have been instrumental to the students as she has found a way to make everyone feel included and supported. Her support of the PTA and willingness to jump in and help others is what makes her special and we are so glad we have her!

Parent – Christina Engler

Nice, Helpful, Dedicated, Fun member for 13 years. Dedicated executive board member over the span of the past 13 years. Christina has helped with organizing so many wonderful events as well as partnering with the staff to help create so many amazing memories for the students and families of the amazing schools she has been involved with throughout her years with the PTA.



"I Am the Future"

Damari Davis

6th grade

Cooper

Johnson Upper Elementary School

Staff – Jennifer Rivera

Energetic, Creative, Helpful, Friendly member. Jennifer was a big supporter of our first Color Run at Johnson. She helped promote the event in PE classes and was willing to do whatever was needed the day of the event. She has a great relationship with her students and uses creative ways to encourage them to be active in PE class. She encourages teamwork and friendly competition while promoting a fun atmosphere that is inclusive of everyone. Mrs. Rivera has attended PTA meetings and is involved around the school. Thank you for all that you do for the Johnson community.

Parent – Debi Foshag

Inclusive, Engaged, Hard-working, Dependable member for one year. Having been involved with the PTA at lower elementary for several years, Debi jumped right into being involved at Johnson. She is the chair of Johnson's DEIB committee and advocates and promotes inclusion for all. Debi readily helps out at our events to ensure that the students are enjoying themselves. She is reliable and is willing to jump in and help out where needed and does it with a smile. We are very thankful to have her as a member of our PTA!



*“Rising
Hope”*

*Pranav
Magesh*

7th grade

Frost

Riley Upper Elementary School

Staff – Karen Danke

Enthusiastic, Caring, Compassionate, Outstanding member for years. Mrs. Danke is the music teacher for Riley Upper Elementary. Mrs. Danke is an innovative educator who brings her talents and passion to our 5th and 6th grade students. There were many changes to our elementary music program this year and she has introduced a program to ensure all 6th grade students have exposure to instrumental music through an instrument exploration rotation in addition to the vocal work they do. She has thought outside of the box and helped to create a successful music journey for our students. In addition to her school duties, Mrs. Danke has been a member of the Livonia Symphony for over 20 years, plays cello and keyboard, acts as a liaison between the symphony and LPS students and families often getting tickets and sometimes donated instruments for families in need through generous donors from the LSO. Mrs. Danke is also a substitute accompanist with the Livonia Youth Choir, an advocate for the youth choir and a former teacher and current substitute teacher for the Livonia Youth Symphony Orchestras of Michigan, many current and former Riley students are members. Mrs. Danke also makes it a point to attend as many PTA meeting as she can. She is not only an asset to our school but also our district.

Parent – MaryAnne LaCaprara

Dedicated, Generous, Inclusive, Positive member for six years. MaryAnne LaCaprara has been a true leader with the PTA for over six years. She has held numerous board positions, helped to chair and lead various committees and she is currently working on increasing student opportunities to give back to our community. In addition to being an exceptional board member who excels in her role as 1st VP, she actively promotes inclusivity and embraces diversity in our school. MaryAnne is a true advocate for creating an environment where every student feels valued and supported. MaryAnne is a force of positive energy and she truly lights up every room she enters. She is always quick with a funny story or joke to help make people laugh. Her generosity, her positivity and her unending willingness to help out makes her an asset to not only the PTA but the school as a whole.

Emerson Middle School

Staff – Zachary Wilson

Committed, Dedicated, Willing, Energetic member for five years. Mr. Wilson embodies the commitment to students that is valued by the PTA. In addition to being an innovative teacher and coordinating the school yearbook, he also coaches Emerson's volleyball team. He is one of the first faces one sees at school functions. Mr. Wilson is always willing to lend a hand and makes Emerson a welcoming, inclusive place for students to be.

Parent – Jason Boyce

Dependable, Positive, Dedicated, Involved member for six years. Being a PTA husband isn't always easy, but Jason is the best!!! He is always there to lend a helping hand at PTA events, running last minute errands and being the muscle of the organization. He is supportive of his wife being a board member at not one, but two units and is an active member of both. We are thankful for his constant involvement and his commitment to the Emerson PTSA.

Student – Ella Poisson

Friendly, Helpful, Kind, Determined member for two years. Ella is all in with all things Emerson. As a member of not only the PTSA, but also the Student Congress and the National Junior Honor Society, she is involved in creating the positive, inclusive environment that makes Emerson what it is. Whether it is brainstorming new ideas, being a friendly face guiding guests around the school or helping run concessions at track meets, Ella is always willing to lend a hand to help make Emerson a great place to be and PTA events successful.

Frost Middle School

Congratulations to their nominees!

Holmes Middle School

Staff – David Mitchell

Enthusiasm, Dedication, Empathy, Humility member for one year. When it comes to exemplifying the core values of the PTSA, Mr. Mitchell is second to none. The respect he has from students, parents, and staff is proof that he loves working with LPS students in class and on the ice. Mr. Mitchell's enthusiasm and commitment to improving the lives of students through teaching and coaching is contagious as students look forward to working with him, and staff look to him for advice as we try to find the best possible ways to be the best we can for our kids. Mr. Mitchell brings a genuine quality to how he approaches his teaching and coaching style. Holding his students and players to high standards and accountable to finding ways to improve themselves when they occasionally fall short of achieving their goals. Mr. Mitchell finds ways to bring our community together and to enhance the lives of everyone he works with. Whether we are cheering on Stevenson hockey as they make another playoff run, or students working together during after school clubs, our community is so very lucky to have Mr. Mitchell who sets a great example of leadership for others to strive toward and follow.

Parent – Amy Cowan Fisher

Friendly, Considerate, Kind and Honest member for one year. Amy exemplifies the PTA values and promotes the PTA at our school. Amy demonstrates commitment by always attending the PTSA meetings and frequently helping out with events. Collaborating with Amy comes easily as she always has valuable input and the feedback she provides is free of judgement. She has shown both accountability and integrity by proving to be someone we can rely on as a volunteer when needed and to take initiative on projects and fundraising opportunities. She is always happy to donate her time and efforts to help when needed. Her integrity is apparent in both her actions and her words and in this way, Amy also displays the value of respect by honoring the feelings and opinions of others. Amy promotes PTA at our school by actively participating in events sponsored by PTA to show our presence and support of the students and staff. We fully appreciate Amy Cowan Fisher and consider her a valuable member of PTA. We are excited to have the opportunity to recognize her with this Founders Day Nomination.

Student – Michael Ploucha

Optimistic, Genuine, Prepared, Caring member for two years. Michael is a great band student. In the seventh grade, he volunteered to learn the tuba in order to better balance out the instrumentation of the concert band. It's not easy to learn an instrument when you are the only one in the group playing it, but Michael persevered. His dedication to the commitment he made, and his curiosity to learn something new, culminated in rapid progress on this challenging instrument. Michael's excellence as a band student is transcended by his extraordinary qualities of good citizenship. He has volunteered his time this year serving as a member of both the PTSA and the National Junior Honor Society. Michael enjoys giving to his school community. Michael doesn't know a stranger. His friendly, welcoming demeanor draws out the best of others he meets. Michael cares about people, and he enjoys helping others be successful. He is prompt, prepared, genuine, and willing to help with whatever needs to be done. Michael is the ideal team player: competent, receptive to instruction, optimistic, and is a champion of others. Michael has embraced the PTSA ideals and has purposefully woven them into the fabric of his life. The Holmes community is a better place for everyone because Michael has been a part of it.



*Clip from dance piece:
“Dancer”
Aniyah Wyrick,
2nd grade
Coolidge Elementary*

Churchill High School

Staff – Paul Mercier

Committed, Driven, Inspiring, Well-loved member for 10 years. Paul is committed to giving the students the best experience possible in all that he does. He's incredibly engaging and well-liked by all. He's ready to help at a moment's notice and supports the PTSA in all that we do and in all that we ask of him. He's the mentor and supporter that the students need and the man with all of the answers when the PTSA has questions. He exudes energy and dedication and has the knowledge to make anything a success.

Parent – Michelle Pawl

Devoted, Reliable, Caring, Kind member for eight years. Michelle can be counted on to step in wherever and whenever help is needed. She's always the first one to arrive and the last to leave. From running events to fundraising for whatever the staff and students need, she knows how to get the job done and always does so with a kind smile and caring words. She's wonderful at getting others involved and at keeping them engaged. Despite her endless experience and knowledge, she's always open to new ideas and welcomes challenges. She's the teammate that everyone wishes they had.

Student – Julia Griesse

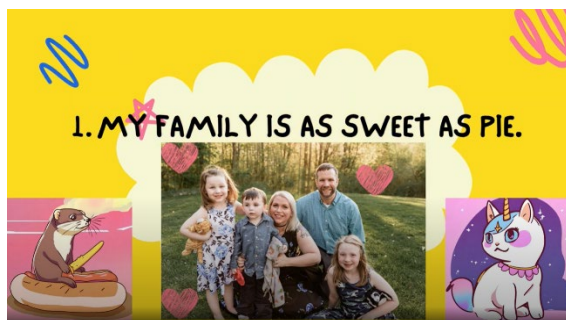
Engaged, Motivated, Successful, Leader member for four years. Julia leads by example and encourages others to do the same. She is a devoted contributor to the success of the school. She's involved in all that Churchill has to offer and finds success in anything that she sets her mind to. She's an incredible liaison when it comes to working with staff and parents to create exciting events for students and values the PTSA's contributions and support. Julia has a very bright future ahead of her.

Film clip from:

"I Have Hope Because ..."

Audrey Sutela

3rd grade, Hayes



Franklin High School

Staff – Laura Rea

Supportive, Collaborative, Creative, Dedicated member. Laura consistently steps up to support our PTSA whenever we need her. With a few photos, graphics, and event details, she effortlessly creates advertisements that capture attention. Beyond her creative contributions, Laura ensures our messages reach a wider audience by broadcasting our information on The Patriot News. We admire her dedication to her students, where she stands out as an encouraging and helpful presence. Laura's commitment not only amplifies the impact of our PTSA promotions but also reflects her genuine care for both the organization and the students it serves.

Parent – Lindsey McCarthy

Genuine, Enthusiastic, Supportive, Dynamic member for one year. Lindsey is brand new to Franklin this year and has been very eager to get involved with our PTSA. She reached out over the summer to find out what she could do, and when she could get started! Our Youth Making a Difference program was in need of a chairperson, and Lindsey stepped up without hesitation. She has been warm and welcoming to everyone at our meetings and events. She helps out whenever she can, and always with a smile. We can't wait to see all the great things she will do in Franklin PTSA.

*“Coming Together”
Leanna McCarthy
9th grade, Franklin*



Student – Tyler Boyce

Reliable, Adaptable, Helpful, Respectful, Supportive member for four years. Tyler exemplifies PTA values through his understated but impactful contributions at our school. Though not always in the limelight, he is reliably helpful when needed, stepping up without hesitation. Whether assisting with loading and unloading hundreds of water bottles, working a table, or helping us reach out to connect with staff and students, he promotes a sense of community and collaboration. Tyler's actions speak volumes about the significance of being there for one another, reinforcing the values that make the PTA a supportive and inclusive community.

Stevenson High School

Staff – Amy Rozman

Generous, Helpful, Involved, Kind member. Ms. Rozman is a dedicated, professional educator, and the students love her. She is always willing and ready to help. She often says, “Let me know if you need any help.” As the senior class sponsor, she oversees everything that has to do with graduation and prom. Her goal is to provide our students with the best senior year possible. Additionally, she organizes our annual powder puff game that raises funds for families in need. If you need a video or something promotional, Ms. Rozman is your contact person. She is also responsible for our video yearbook. Her day-to-day interaction with all stakeholders has a direct reflection of the climate and culture at Stevenson. She is always thinking of ways to get students involved, and always has a smile on her face. Putting students first, Ms. Rozman is one of the nicest people at Stevenson. Her school spirit is contagious, as she represents everything good about Stevenson. Ms. Rozman is an exemplary educator. Thank you, Ms. Rozman, for everything that you do for the Stevenson community.

An excerpt from “Monday” by Erdisa Zekaj, 11th grade, Stevenson

In the sequence of the 52 Mondays, woven into our narratives is routine and opportunity.

The Monday alarm, the loop of consumption, and the refusal to be silenced by larger corporations reveals how we approach hope. As we navigate the 365 days of a year, our calendar is much like a canvas to harvest hope for the world. Life's routine and digital complexities can be given clarity through a simple pair of eyeglasses, converging into the whole idea of hope. Each Monday, the ringing of that alarm, rings to signify a call for innovation, hope, and acknowledgement that our generations are striving to create harmony.

Parent – Karen Martoia

Positive, Helpful, Kind, Dependable member. Karen has been a dedicated parent for several years at Stevenson High School. Her son graduated in 2023 and her daughter is a current Spartan. Karen is responsible for creating and updating the PTSA display case and she does such an amazing job. We would like to thank Karen for her continued efforts and hard work in keeping Stevenson’s PTSA information current.

Student – Richardo Wourman

Passionate, Reliable, Considerate, Exemplary member. Richardo is an exemplary student athlete for Livonia Public Schools. He represents all the core values of Livonia Public Schools’ “A Community with Character.” Richardo has been a multiple sport student athlete since entering Stevenson. Having been elected captain of his sports teams demonstrates the respect our students have for him. As a member of the Stevenson Senate, he is always willing to participate and assist. He is present at many after-school activities. Often, he will arrive early to assist with set up or stay after to help clean up. “A total class act” has often been said about Richardo. He is a leader in and out of the classroom. He works diligently to foster relationships and develop underclass students into future leaders. Richardo is a wonderful representation of our student body. Thank you Richardo!



*“At the Dog Park on
August Ave.”*

Dexter Jackson

3rd grade

Hayes Elementary

Important PTSA Council Dates for 2024

March – Transportation/Maintenance/Warehouse Appreciation

3/20 Executive Board Meeting | 6-7 p.m. | BOE office

Spring – Reflections Ceremony | TBD | TBD

4/17 General Membership Meeting & Elections | 6-7 p.m. | BOE office

4/27 Youth Making A Difference Celebration | 6 p.m. | Churchill High School

5/22 Officer Training Workshop | 6-8 p.m. | TBD

6/12 Executive Board Meeting | 6-7 p.m. | BOE office

7/17 2023 Audit Party | 6-8 p.m. | Board Room, BOE building (downstairs)

Council generally meets on the THIRD WEDNESDAY of the month (Please avoid scheduling your meetings on those days).

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

2020-2022	Mandy Gerstenbrand
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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www.livoniaptsacouncil.org