

Name our Newsletter!

We've narrowed it down to four favorites:

Urban Smart

Half Full

The Bright Side

Promising Tales

Send your vote to **Jane.Nordberg@lansingschools.net**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

9/24: Parent, Community Advisory Council meeting, 6:30 p.m., Elmhurst

9/27: Tailgate fundraiser, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Everett

9/30: High School Nation-Tour, Everett

10/1: Lansing Spartan Unified Softball Team honored, 9:30 a.m., Capitol

10/1: Healthy Kids Dental Event, Fairview

10/2: Count Day

10/4: Truancy Assembly, 10 a.m., STEM

10/4: Homecoming Parade, 4:30 p.m., Eastern

10/5-10: Japanese visitors

10/12: Scrap Metal fundraiser, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Everett

10/30: Fall Fun Open House, 4-7 p.m., Elmhurst

Sexton supporters stand together

Early Wednesday morning, following a shooting of three Sexton High School students Tuesday, a group of Sexton alumni and Westside community supporters gathered together on the steps of their beloved school to show solidarity in the wake of adversity.

Wearing Sexton's iconic red and holding signs that said, "Lansing is Beautiful," "Westside Pride" and "Big Red Neighborhood," the group included, as stated by organizer Bill Morris, "People who went to J. Dub and people who wanted to go to J. Dub."

Mitzi Allen, class of 1968, was among them. "My father went to Big Red, my two brothers and my three daughters," Allen said. "We are a Sexton family through and through."



A group of community members and Sexton High School alumni hold supportive signs Wednesday on the school's front steps.

Shortly after the incident Tuesday, word spread throughout the Sexton community encouraging supporters to come out.

"All of these people have a relationship to this school and the community," Morris said, looking

up to admire the school's Art Deco architecture. "Sexton was built to be ornate, but also to withstand a bomb impact. These people care about this. They wanted to come out and rally, show support for our kids."

Miss America 2011 visits STEM



Miss America 2011 Teresa Scanlan visited Lansing STEM Thursday, giving students a little history lesson as well as some insight into the message behind the crown.

In conjunction with Constitution Week, Scanlan's presentation focused on the relevance of the Constitution today and how it provides some of the freedoms a lot of people take for granted. "The Constitution tells the government what it can and can't do,"

she told the crowd of 4th-8th graders gathered in the assembly. "Without it, the government could do whatever it wanted."

Drawing a gasp from the audience, Scanlan displayed her crown, explaining the four points stood for style, success, scholarship and service.

"So it's important that you stay in school, and stay involved," she said. "Whether you aspire to be Miss America or just a good citizen."

Averill Community Garden harvest



Above, student Jesse Alvarez does his best Bugs Bunny impersonation Wednesday at Averill's Community Garden. Right, teacher Ann Wesley poses with students in the garden. Below, back row, Wesley is joined by parent Destiny Teachnor-Hauk and instructional assistant Kim Andrejczuk.

For most students, the summer is too short. For a group of young gardeners at Averill, it's been a summer of anticipation.

Wednesday, an excited group of 2nd and 3rd graders got the opportunity to harvest vegetables they had planted from seed or young plants in the spring in the school's community garden, and take the goodies home for dinner.

"Look what grew in our garden!" shouted student Dylan Gringe, holding up a cherry tomato just seconds before popping it into his mouth. "Mmmm. It's sweet," he said. "Good."

While teacher Ann Wesley helped students pull beets from the ground, instructional assistant Kim Andrejczuk offered a student a potato.

"Eww! It's dirty!" the student replied. "Yes," Andrejczuk said, laughing. "It just came out of



the ground."

One of the many lessons learned in the garden, Wesley said, is bridging the disconnect between food, store, and table.

"They get it now that the food they see at Meijer comes from a garden," she said.

Andrejczuk said the benefits weren't limited to the classroom. "This garden has created a sense of community between the school and the neighborhood, and community within the school throughout all grade levels," she said. Preschoolers have their own garden on another part of school property.

Averill principal Rosa Thill credits parent Destiny Teachnor-Hauk with getting the community garden started in 2010.

"Everyone was so supportive," Teachnor-Hauk said, adding the genesis of the project came about when the Averill Woods Neighborhood Association, the school and the Greater Lansing

Food Bank formed a partnership. "People donated their time and talents to get it started."

That first year, the garden yielded sunflowers, tomatoes and herbs. In 2011, a grant funded raised beds, including a higher raised bed to accommodate a special needs student who would not otherwise be able to work in the garden. Another grant paid for fencing necessary to keep out the deer.

This year, the harvest included lettuce, carrots, beets, broccoli, jalapeno peppers, beans, snow peas, potatoes, pumpkins and eggplant. A rain barrel is used for irrigation, and a worm bin is fed by scraps from the school lunches. Teachers, parents and neighborhood community members are welcome.

Surveying her cache of broccoli, peppers and beets, student Janica Faltriguera gave a wide smile. "My mom is going to love that I picked something from the garden for her."



Camp Forest View

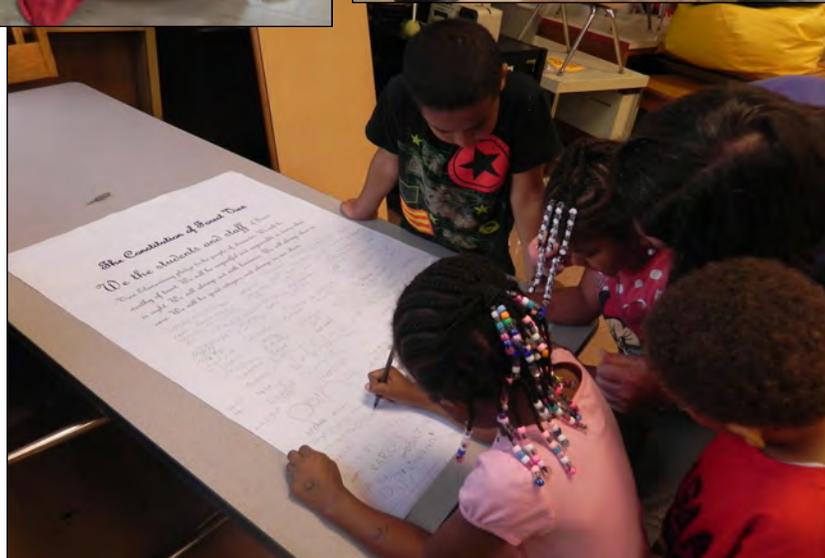
Dead bugs. Tie-dying. The Constitution. What do these things have in common? They all made an appearance at Camp Forest View Thursday.

"It was our first one, and it went really well," said Principal Emily Wahl. "The students had fun, and our volunteers and teachers were great."

Students were placed into groups and rotated through stations to learn about art, citizenship, and how personal space gives a feeling of safety.

By design, the groups were a mix of grades, said teacher Kelli Fortino.

"We intentionally mixed them up so they could interact with each other," she said. "They look like they're having a lot of fun."



Clockwise, from top right, Forest View student Naudia Garcia dyes a shirt purple with some help from Camp Forest View volunteer and long-time math tutor Ron Voelker. Right, students sign the "Forest View Constitution" recognizing Constitution Week. Above left, a physical education exercise uses a "dead bug" approach to learning about personal space.

Willow offers "Donuts for Dads"



Student Assistance Provider Christopher Rollins, far left, greets a group of participants Wednesday in Willow's new Donuts for Dads meeting series. The series is part of the national Watch DOGS (Dads Of Great Students) program, which aims at getting male role models to be more active in school.

Christopher Rollins doesn't care who you are, he's happy you're here.

"Fathers, grandfathers, uncles, ministers, you are no longer in the Fantasy League," he said. "You've been drafted."

Rollins spoke to a group of about 15 men who attended the inaugural Donuts for Dads meeting at Willow Wednesday morning. DFD is part of a national Watch DOGS (Dads of Great Students) program that focuses on getting male role models to be more visible and active in their children's education.

"Studies demonstrate a student who has a positive male role model is twice as likely to graduate high school," said Principal Steven Lonzo.

Dads were encouraged to attend class, have lunch or visit during recess, something parent DeJuan Terry said he was going to take advantage of.

"Being involved in the school is a part of being involved in the community," he said. "When I'm not working, I'll make my presence known."

United Way holds successful school supply drive



Above, United Way Community Resources Associate Amanda Masters helped organize 16 boxes of school supplies which Lansing School District Services Group Leader Jose Estrada, right, transported to the administration building for pickup by principals.

The Capital Area United Way's annual Days of Caring School Supplies Drive exceeded organizers' expectations this year, according to the agency's Community Resources Associate Amanda Masters.



"Calls kept coming in from businesses after the deadline and we just kept collecting," Masters said. "We had a 10-foot by 10-foot office packed floor to ceiling with donated supplies."

Collected were packages for more than 400 targeted students as well as an additional 70 boxes of supplies that were distributed to local schools in the tri-county area. Principals in the Lansing School District picked up the supplies last week at the administration building.

Masters said future drives might target specific item needs, such as jump drives.

"For now, we're letting donors choose what they want to give, so they remain engaged," she said.

Announcements

Fundraiser to benefit Everett scholarship

A tailgate fundraiser will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Sept. 27 in the Archie Ross Stadium at Everett High School prior to the Everett-Eastern football game. Tailgate tickets are a \$5 donation to the scholarship fund, and does not include the admission price to the game, which is the MHSAA price of \$5. The donation includes a hot dog, chips, beverage and choice of dessert.

Funds will benefit the Cindy Short Memorial Scholarship for Everett High School student athletes. Donations for the raffle, food items or volunteers to assist with set-up, serving and clean-up are welcome.

Cindy Short was a long time Lansing School District teacher, coach, and athletic director killed in a snowmobile accident in February 2013. A scholarship in her name recognizes hard working, team-before-self, altruistic student athletes. The first two \$500 scholarships were awarded to 2013 graduates Rebecca Jenks (LCC) and Dakota Jarrad (MSU).

Eastern to make changes to Homecoming

This year, Eastern High School will institute a new process for its Homecoming activities, moving from a traditional Homecoming Court to an "International Baccalaureate Court." Instead of a traditional King and Queen, senior winners will earn the title of "Eastern Ambassadors."

Potential ambassadors will write an essay focused

on how they exemplify the IB Learner Profile characteristics.

District-wide parent advisory group to meet

The Lansing School District Parent/Community Advisory Council will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Sept. 24 in the Parent Center at Elmhurst School, 2400 Pattengill Ave. behind the Colonial Village Shopping Center.

The council is a district wide group of parents, teachers, principals and community members which meets every fourth Tuesday to discuss parents' interests, concerns, and to share information with district families and community.

Participants will meet PCAC Officers and a Lansing Board of Education representative, learn about the new state accountability systems, and have a forum to share ideas, questions or concerns on school district matters. Childcare is available and a light dinner will be served.

For more information, contact PCAC Administrator Liaison Teri Bernero at 755-1045 or teri.bernero@lansingschools.net.

Everett to hold scrap metal fundraiser

A scrap metal fundraiser to support the Everett High School Class of 2015 will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 12 in the Everett High School Parking Lot.

Large metal items are accepted, including appliances and metal filing cabinets. Prohibited items include paint cans, transformers, ballasts, capacitors, light bulbs and aerosol spray cans.

For a complete list of prohibited items, visit FriedlandIndustries.com. A pick-up service is available for those not able to drop off items. To arrange for pick-up, contact Joe Marutiak at jmarutiak@juno.com or call 485-6697. For details on the scrap metal drive, contact June Estrada at 755-4412.

Elmhurst to host Open House

The Community Learning Center, Department of Innovative Arts and Fitness (Art, Music and Physical Education), Lansing RIF (Reading Is Fundamental), Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and School Nurse Office will host a Fall Open House from 4-7 p.m. Oct. 30 at Elmhurst, 2400 Pattengill Ave., Lansing. Included will be storytelling, make-and-take crafts, and active fun in the gym.

For more information, call the Community Learning Center at 755-4966.

Samsung video contest under way

Samsung Corporation is sponsoring a competition that will award more than \$2 million in technology.

The "Samsung Solve for Tomorrow" video contest will award one school per state a technology kit to produce a video addressing the challenge, "Show how STEM can be applied to help improve your local community."

Applications from teachers in all disciplines representing grades 6-12 are encouraged. The deadline is Oct. 31. Full contest rules can be found at Samsung.com/solve.