



# Scoop from the Supt

by Bryan Girbach

## Students

- Over 75 Milan families received Christmas Baskets full of food and household supplies on December 16th. The Milan Rotary Club collected over \$7,700 and bought \$6,000 of supplies for families. Paddock, Symons, and MMS all held non-perishable food drives to help fill the baskets. MHS had a jar-wars to raise cash to help Rotary make the purchases. MHS raised \$1,006 of the \$7,700. Aid in Milan helped coordinate the families. Interact students from MHS helped Rotary members pack all of the items! What an amazing accomplishment for our community! Rotary will be making a donation to Aid in Milan with the remaining \$1,700 that came in after the Rotary purchases had been made.

## Staff

- Dawn Hynds' (MAS Nurse) sister, Kimberly Beth Tom, passed away on December 27th. Please keep Dawn and her family in your thoughts.
- Terry Himich's (Symons Lead Custodian) mother, who is also Kirsti Hosler's (Symons Administrative Assistant) grandmother, Barbara Himich, passed away on January 6th. Please keep Terry and Kirsti and their family in your thoughts.
- Debbi Hosler's (cafeteria staff and transportation bus monitor) husband, Richard Hosler, passed away on December 20th. Please keep Debbi and her family in your thoughts.
- The LOA was unanimously approved by the MASSS group on 12-15-23. The new pay rates went into effect on 12-16-23 (in accordance with the LOA). Therefore, the first payroll affected by the new rates will be January 15, 2024.
- I visited the MHS Exam Cram event on Sunday (12-17-23) evening. Over 10% of the MHS student body attended. There were more than 15 staff members there to help students as well. What a wonderful event. A huge thank you to the planners and the staff who attended to help their students be successful! The following staff attended: James Brousseau, McKenzie Chappell, Jeff Davis, Abigail Drieberg, Dan Heikka, Kristina Mahaney, Herb Morelock, Nathan Rodriguez, Cassidy Schettenhelm, Matthew Walline, Mary Hammer, Kathy Mee, Rochelle Giasi, Kimberly Taylor, Dawn Werstein, Emily Larsen, Phillip Hayes, and Sierra Moran.
- We are excited to have a Symons Elementary Principal in place. Mrs. Schwartz will be here to begin her new position on or around February 1st (after providing proper notice to her current employer).
- Our increase in paraprofessional compensation has attracted several new applicants. We are excited to be able to increase support for our students and staff.

## General

- Dennis McComb, Superintendent of Milan Area Schools from 1996 to 2008, passed away on January 11th. Among his many accomplishments while leading MAS, Dennis passed a bond and oversaw the

construction of the new Milan High School. He also instituted a curriculum review process that helped update all of the district's curriculum over a 5 year timeframe.

- Joanne Heath, a long time Administrative Assistant for Milan Area Schools, passed away on January 13th. Joanne graduated from Milan in 1956 and was a life-long resident of Milan.
- On Friday, January 12th, the Washtenaw County Superintendents and law enforcement officers from across the county held our regular joint meeting. Topics discussed included school safety, CSTAG threat assessment, and ALICE updates. In addition, the group received training on dealing with bomb threats presented by an FBI agent.
- Due to a building issue, school is cancelled for Thursday, January 18. Since early Tuesday morning, the MAS maintenance department, with the support of two outside companies, has been working tirelessly to restore heat to every classroom at Paddock. Following the five hour power outage at Paddock, over 20 classrooms experienced frozen pipes on the heating system. We are thankful that there was no water damage to classrooms; however, due to the continued cold temperatures, it has been a lengthy process to thaw the pipes and make the necessary repairs. At this time, we should have heat in every classroom and plan to have school on Friday. Due to state attendance rules, we would not be able to count tomorrow as a school day with only three buildings in session. Therefore, we are canceling school for the entire district. We appreciate your patience and support as we work through this weather related building issue. After school activities and athletics will be held at the discretion of the Athletic Director, Building Administrators, Coaches, and/or Club Coordinators. These decisions will be made closer to the event times tomorrow. Students and parents should watch for communications specific to their event.