

Union News

March 2009

RFT Officers

President – David Skidmore

Executive VP – Lucy Thill

Elementary VP – Clare Baxter

Secondary VP – Lisa Withey

Secretary – Gary Scheff

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Good Things Happening

Lincoln Elementary recently raised \$450 dollars for new library books. Lincoln staff and students also collected enough canned goods and extras to provide eight needy families holiday baskets. The school was published in the Eastsider for their recent PBS assembly. Daniel Jaremba, a Lincoln student, is having a piece of his writing published in the Michigan Reading Association's Kaleidoscope Magazine.

Dort staff and students collected over 200 items to the Michigan Animal Rescue League. Some of the Dort staff is participating in their own version of "Dort's Biggest Loser". Participating staff donate food items for every pound lost that will fill food baskets given at Easter to needy families in the community. The staff is also preparing for "March is Reading Month". The school will be decked out with medieval decorations as well as having a presentation by a Renaissance group.

Editor Linda Bradley

Arbor 6th graders work as positive role models for DK students at Arbor Elementary.

Huron Park will be hosting an after school tutoring program from March until May. Participating teachers will be tutoring math and reading. Kindergarten and first grade teachers held parent sessions to educate parents on how to promote literacy in their homes. Parent volunteers also visit weekly to help various classrooms with math and reading. Huron Park has a talent show coming up on April 6th. The 4th grade band students will be performing on April 4th in Lansing at the Capitol.

Pierce Alternative School hosted the 6th Annual Teen Parent Conference. The conference was titled **Motivation for Mothers (and Fathers too!)** The event provided young mothers and fathers with education on pre-natal, post-partum and parenting skills. Parents were directly connected with community resources. The conference awarded participants with prizes, incentives for active participation and certificates. Linda Archibald coordinated the successful event.

Alumni School is getting ready for a full schedule of March is Reading Month activities. Some of the festivities include an evening Read-In and a program called **Go Family Fun** presented by Cranbrook Science.

Arbor Elementary is gearing up for "March is Reading Month". Upper Elementary students will be publishing another school wide newspaper. Second graders have been collecting pop tops for Children's Hospital. The pop tops earn money for the Ronald McDonald House. Fifth graders will be competing at Lakeside Mall in the Imagineers Contest on March 7th. Choir students are taking part in a fundraiser called **Helping Hands**. Part of the monies earned benefit third-world areas around the globe. The choir is also performing at the Capital building on April 28th. Arbor and Lincoln will participate in a family game night in March. The staffs have engaged in professional development, luncheons as well as PTO meetings to foster a successful merge.

Arbor 2nd graders with "pop top leader" Beckie Naghski

Patton Elementary fourth graders entered a drawing at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. Because a Patton child's name was drawn the entire school won classroom field trips to the museum, and in addition, each child will receive a membership to the museum for a year.

Kaiser second and third graders have been piloting **Success Maker**. Kaiser has started an after school program for struggling math students as well. Kaiser staff wore blue on Unity Day. Kaiser was presented with an American flag by Lahoma Jones's son, SPC. Philip Jones. The flag had been flown from a Chinook helicopter in Afghanistan. Members of the Roseville VFW were in attendance.

Fountain students, Lindsey Somoski and Karen Weiss were selected to read their DARE essays at the winter graduation. Jack Crabtree, Alexis Heinrich, Haylee Miller and Kerena Weiss will be moving on to the county **You Be the Chemist** challenge. This contest is sponsored by the Chemical Education Foundation to promote Science awareness, particularly Chemistry.

Roseville High School students remain productive even under construction. Auto Body and Auto Tech students brought home trophies from the National Car Competition in Chicago under the supervision of Paul Tregembo Sr. and Jr. and Karl Goodrich. The Roseville High wrestlers, coached by Major Mickens, won the MAC Red tournament and followed the win up with a District title. On February 25th, they added a regional title which sends them to Battlecreek for a shot at

the State Championship.

Conference Opportunity

AFT QUEST (Quality Educational Standards in Teaching) Conference is scheduled for July 12-15th in Washington D.C. this summer. The RFT has sent a number of its members to this professional development conference over the years. The quality of the workshops is high, and the opportunity to have dialogue with your union brothers and sisters on a warm summer evening in DC is priceless. More information will be forthcoming in the month ahead.

Bond Report

Listed below are some of the events which will take place in the third year of the Bond. Things are on schedule. In March a meeting will take place to cover procedures and questions regarding building moves. A word of encouragement came from Karl Koss about RHS. He stated, "Visitors to our building think that some of our staff *a/ways* wears a hardhat. The move into the new wing went nearly flawlessly and the new classrooms are in constant use. The remodeling of the old science rooms and life management is well underway.

April-May Construction begins at Dort and Fountain

May-June Kment-Steenland host open houses/ BarBQ for parents, students & general public

June-August Move Guest to Kment Elementary

 Move Arbor & Lincoln to Steenland Elementary

 Move Dort to Guest

 Move Fountain to Lincoln

 Move Auto Body from Guest back to RHS

 Move Auto Repair from RJHS back to RHS

 Move Drafting from RJHS back to RHS

 Move Building Trades from Guest to RHS

 Move Machine Shop from Lakeshore back to RHS

Steenland Elementary

June-August Move renovated science classes from 9th grade wing to newly renovated

classrooms

Move 9th grade wing from EJHS to RJHS to new wing

Move bus garage repair back to RJHS

September 9th grade reports to RHS Dedication

October Steenland-Kment Dedications

December Renovation begin at EJHS & RJHS

Aft President with Tracy Horner, Jeff Andrus, Roger Genes and Staci Earl at the AFT summer annual golf outing. This is their 3rd year winning the mixed division. Roseville sends four teams attend each year.

Teachers of the Year

Sue LaFevé teaches Lower Multiage at Arbor Elementary. This is her 23rd year of teaching in Roseville. The best part of teaching for Sue is the kids. They make her laugh every day. Sue believes that you are only as good as the people around you. On good days your colleagues are your cheerleaders and on the bad days they hold you up.

Mark Baldes teaches Freshman World History and Michigan History at Eastland Junior. He has been teaching for three and a half years in Roseville. The best part of teaching for Mark is seeing the face of a student who has just realized a sense of achievement. Mark believes in asking himself one question before any action as an educator, "Is it in the best interest of the student?" If the answer is "yes" then he knows it is the right thing to do.

Tiffany Pomaville teaches Special Education Math at Roseville High School. This is her ninth year of teaching. The best part of teaching for Tiffany is seeing a struggling student grasp a concept and watching their self esteem soar. Tiffany believes that students who have disabilities are simply students who learn differently.

March 2009 Thoughts

Dave Skidmore

AFT President Randi Weingarten wrote an article entitled, "**Win-Win Partnerships with the Community,**" in the recent **American Teacher** publication (March 2009). In it she argued for the need to build community ties and stated:

Our members are a part of the larger community in which they live, rear their children, attend church, play in softball leagues and do all the things that bind people together. Relationships are forged through shared goals, experiences and interests; it's important for unions to foster strong

connections with members of the community who share our concerns and objectives. If we aren't building these relationships, we will not be as strong or effective a voice for our members as we could be.

(http://www.aft.org/pubs-reports/american_teacher/mar09/AT_march09.pdf#page=3)

Earlier this year, the RFT created a **Community Presence Committee** and are lucky enough to have Joyce Muszall chair that committee. The group helped sponsor the Roseville Big Bird Run in November, and was part of a gathering with Radio Disney, Local 732, parents, and administrators at Macomb Mall that same month. Thank you to those of you who've contributed your time and efforts to these activities. In the years ahead a goal of the current RFT Leadership is to become more involved in Roseville by lending a hand at local events. We'll need *your* help.

Buy Michigan. The Michigan Department of Agriculture site states the following:

If every household started spending just \$10 per week of their current grocery budget on locally grown foods, we'd keep more than \$37 million each week circulating within Michigan's economy. Check out this site for a list of Michigan companies that I received from a friend via an email (Thanks Barb).

http://www.iuoelocal547.com/PDFs/Stores_and_Products.pdf