

September/October 2011

Volume 24 Number 1

Hats Off To...

Bonnie McGraw for always going above and beyond in Michelle Braun's classroom. Bonnie even worked for hours in Michelle's room one Sunday because she knew she was sick and wouldn't be able to come in and get things done! Bonnie is truly an amazing person and a great friend!

Thank you to **everyone** who helped support the Schwan's Fundraiser at Jefferson this summer benefiting the Foster Grandparent program for Ionia Public Schools. With your help we raised more than \$650.

Everyone at Emerson for making Martha Meeker feel so welcome and helping her to get settled in! She appreciates all of you!

Many thanks to **Rather staff** for the very warm welcome! Suzanne Rosenberg appreciates your joyfulness and enthusiasm!!!

LouAnn Klein, thank you for all of the tech help at Rather! You are a STAR!!!

Rather Staff, Thank you for always being "right there" when I need you.
- Lefty Suzanne Rosenberg

Sally Flanders - you are "souper"!!!

Tammi Savage and Nancy Bouck
- You are a great team!!

Mrs. Boley...the 1st Graders think you look just like their old teacher!!!!



Clockwise, from top, left, IMS Teacher Jim VanSyckle received his second Purple Jersey sponsored by Swineharts and Kirbys; retired teacher Vince Nevins smiles after receiving his Purple Jersey from his granddaughters; all eyes were on IMS Teacher Pam Trevan as she received her first Purple Jersey; Jefferson Teacher Kim Stewart gets a big hug from a cheerleader during the Purple Jersey ceremony; Coach Mike Holes, with the help of his daughter, presented Purple Jersey #19 to his father; Heartlands Teacher Bill Rodgers accepts the Purple Jersey sponsored in memory of and in honor of family members who battled cancer; and Caleb Spohn presented a Purple Jersey in Memory of Heartlands Teacher Deb Slaughter to her daughters Arianne and Mariah.

Staff Stuff

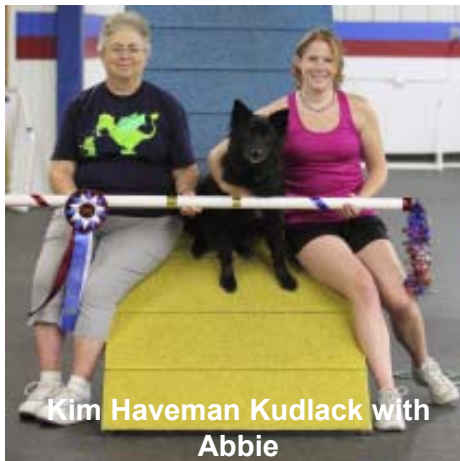


Abbie the Dog

IHS Science Teacher Kim Haveman-Kudlack has some news to report! After 2.5 years of trialing her dog, Abbie, in agility competitions, in August she finally earned her C-ATCH title (CPE Agility Trial Champion) from CPE (Canine Performance Events).

Abbie had to acquire 120 qualifying runs of increasing difficulty and accuracy in a specific combination of 7 different events to earn these recognitions. The Kudlacks and Abbie actually have been training for this for about 7 years, but have only competed for 2.5 since Kim took time off when she had her daughter.

The Kudlacks were pretty excited! Not bad for a little stray from Ionia that no one else wanted :)



Kim Haveman Kudlack with Abbie

Welcome and congratulations to Welch High School Secretary **Trisha Carter**!

Rather Teacher Kathy VanSyckle, you are sweet as pie

Congratulations to two first time grandmas, **Jefferson Teacher Evie Proulx and Jefferson Social Worker Janet Stratton**.

Evie Proulx is very excited by the birth of her grandson, Timothy Corban, son of her son, Nathan Proulx (IHS Class of 1995), and his wife, Vanessa.

Janet Stratton is excited to announce the birth of her first grandchild, Scarlett Emerson Jones, born to her daughter, Elizabeth and her husband, Jason on Monday Sept. 12th in Traverse City.

Thank you **to ALL** for all the well wishes and encouragement as the Proulx family was dealing with premature baby, Timothy. He is doing well and home now!

Boyce Teacher John Fate, someone is blue without your maize on Fridays!!

Rather Principal Darin Magley reported he and his family camped for about 3 weeks this summer, traveling to Grand Haven, Mackinac, and Ohio.

Our condolences to **Paraeducator Holly Ingvarlsen** and her family on the death of her husband, Larry on Sept. 30.

TR Teacher Laurie Hoppough we are thinking of you as you recover from broken bones and surgery! How can a mother of 3 young children be asked to hobble on one leg?

Congratulations to **Michelle Medler**, Jefferson speech pathologist, who gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Drew Ryan Medler.

TR Principal Dayna Ellis, we are glad your son, Tyler is recovering well after his involvement in a scary car accident.

Random Acts of Kindness

Holly Ingvarlsen would like to thank **everyone** for all the money that was raised on the dress-down day for Larry and Holly. The Ingvarlsens are so grateful; they are very thankful for all the community support given to them during the last year.

The **IMS cross country team** was at a 10-team invitational at St. Johns recently. There were four different races going on, so there were kids warming up and getting ready at all different times. The third race of the night was the girls open race, which included all the girls who were not in a team's top seven. Since it was in the middle of the meet, most kids were busy finishing their races or getting ready to run in the next race. **Coach Jim Alspaugh** had just a few kids on the course cheering on kids at the time.

At the conclusion of this third race, Jim had a man from Saginaw come up to him and ask if he was the Ionia coach. Right away Jim was thinking that our kids probably did something stupid and embarrassing for our school since they were not being directly supervised at the time.

The man informed Jim that his daughter has a major disability (he saw her running way behind everyone and he thought it might have been cerebral palsy). This girl only made it about a half mile into the race before she had to quit.

The Dad informed Jim with a smile on his face and tears in his eyes that our kids went up to her and told her what a great job she had done and how she was an inspiration to them.

He informed Jim that no other team has ever acknowledged her before and this meant the world to him and his family. He couldn't believe that middle school kids from another team would be so caring and understanding.

Our students learned these behaviors from the way we treat kids in our school and our expectations of them.

More Hats Off To...

Beth Secor, You are terrific!

Jean Hengesbach, you are doing a great job!

Laurie Sykes, You are the best friend ever!!

Deb Marshall, you are one step ahead of everything- amazing to be in your presence!

Mr. Magley, You are truly a blue ribbon leader - Rather rocks!!

Stacey Bovee, hope you are having a great year!

Cindy Higbee for helping Janet Sparks get the Emerson kindergarten started this year. It was fun to work with you again. Boyce is lucky to have you now.

Amy Frias looks forward to working with you **Laura**. You are always such a hard worker and so helpful!

Tim Blackmer, for all of your expertise & availability!!! Don't know what we would do without you!!!

Thank you, **Kathy Dole**, for working so hard to get our new math series in our hands and for your direction along the way. You have been a valuable and understanding resource.

Thank you to all of the **High School staff** for their participation in Capturing Kids' Hearts. What a great start to the school year!

Principal Stacey Bovee, for making the start of school so smooth and successful at Boyce Elementary. You rock!!

Great job **TR** for winning the Kleenex Field Trip Contest. Our staff, parents and community really pulled together to make it happen. It shows that a small school, with a lot of heart, can do BIG things!

TR is happy to have **Cheryl Meyers** working in the building. Thank you for everything you've done to get the school year off to a GREAT start.

TR interventionist, **Leila McDonald**, has done a wonderful job working with our 4th & 5th grade students and teachers. We love your PEP!

TR student teacher, **Jeni Klingbeil**, is doing a great job in Lisa Wandell's classroom.

Diane Wheeler, TR cook, is cooking up a storm in the kitchen. We are glad you joined our team.

Capturing Kids' Hearts is showing amazing results daily. Thank you IPS for giving us this gift.

Thank you, **Kelly Piercefield**, for volunteering to represent TR at this year's DSICC meetings.

Christina Stedman represented TR at DSICC meetings for the last five years. Now that is DEDICATION!

Marcie Suzio, I hope we are always First!

There are far too many to thank on the inside of **Emerson Elementary** and on the outside of all IPS!!!

Everyone at Emerson has been awesome and so many have jumped in and helped wherever & whenever it is needed! What a great team we have here, especially with an awesome leader, **Mr. Mercer!**

Central Office & Technology-we can't even begin to thank you enough for all of your help & amazing patience during this demanding learning curve of our new Pinnacle system.

As a parent at IPS, thank you so much to **the Rather Elementary staff** for being there & understanding the needs & providing that little extra TLC the students needed to adjust to their new early schedule!

A little humor with the time change was overheard when young students talked to their grandparents. "Yep, we get up really...**really** early now for school, & so now we don't have to go all day anymore!"

Thank you to **Ted Paton** for hosting for first of many high school social events for staff! You're the best!

Scott Swinehart for his hard work and effort during Community Awareness Week. The purple game and the end-of-game activities were a reminder of the importance of caring about each other.



More Hats Off To...

A special thank you to **Jeff Marion** for planting new trees in front of the high school. All of the trees are beautiful and will bring flowers in the spring!

Special appreciation to **Rachel Shattuck** for her assistance with SADD and the Friendship Cookie Party on September 28. What great fun for everyone!

Thank you **Coach Alspaugh** for making Emma Shattuck feel good about herself during her Cross Country training and meets. She has praises about you every day. You have truly captured her heart, as well as her mother's. Thank you for taking the time for these kids, and making a difference in their lives. It does not go unnoticed.

Jean Miller for all of her hard work in getting Rather ready for staff and students.

Kathy VanSyckle for her help putting together Rather's Board Room Bulletin Board and Curriculum Showcase.

Deb Marshall for the amazing, positive, supportive attitude that she always displays – even during the most difficult of times!

Denise Wireman for the effort she has put into making her schedule at the High School and Rather work!

Ben Kirby for his leadership and vision in bringing Capturing Kids' Hearts to our district – what a life-changing experience.

The IMS Cooks, Marty Huntley, Linda Moore and Jane Hummel for wonderful assistance with Senior Citizen Luncheons!

Lou Ann Klein for her hard work in getting the library and computer lab ready for students.

Greg King for making the new bus runs at Rather, IMS, and IHS work – this obviously was a huge task!

Kristin Thompson and Jessica Golombisky and Rachel Shattuck and all the students who assisted at the booth sponsored by Ionia Public Schools at Fall Festival at Bertha Brock Park. You are appreciated.

Meijer for sponsoring Dignity and Respect Awards for 2011-2012! Thank you!

Jane Hummel, Jackie VanDyne, and Nancy Hutchinson for being excellent proof readers whenever needed!

Rachel Shattuck and Anne Swinehart for their participation in the ISD's YAC Youth Leadership camp project this summer.

Tammi Savage for preparing Rather's Social Contract and Group Meeting Norms for display!

"A funny thing happened on the way to the classroom."

A funny thing happened on the way to the classroom... One of **Emerson Teacher Janet Sparks'** kindergartners did not line up and come into the building on time after recess. **Paraeducator Robin Glesmer** tracked him down and sent him in. When he was asked why he didn't line up with his class, he replied, "Because, I just found my first true love."

Employees, Retirees' Brag Section

Mark Fate, son of **John and Jan Fate** married Mara Ferguson on June 18th in Grand Rapids. Mark and Mara currently reside in Ann Arbor.

Mark Hotchkin, son of **Deanna and Miller Hotchkin**, was married to Lori Huffman this summer on July 8. It was a beautiful outdoor wedding, and they honeymooned in Mexico!

Kim and Cheryl Foster celebrated 35 years of marriage on 8/28/2011. They were married here in Ionia at SS. Peter and Paul Church in 1976.

Classifieds

Needed: Maureen Reeder is looking for a wooden rocking chair or glider rocker for a middle school AI student because it is more age appropriate than a swing for her.

Health and Wellness: Body By VI has helped people lose millions of pounds and/or get healthier. If you would like to learn more about this product please check out amyfrias.myvi.net.

House for rent: 3 bedroom, 1 bath home with attached one stall garage. Safe and friendly subdivision, located close to Ionia High School & Rather Elementary Please call 616-902-1096 for more information!

FOR SALE: 2008 Saturn Aura XR, 3.6 liter V6, white w/ black leather, sunroof, heated seats and more. Includes snow tires. 74,000 miles, \$13,500 or best offer. Contact Kelly Sandborn 616-902-7155 or Jeff Sandborn 517-204-3637.

FOR SALE: A variety of Scrubs; many sizes: tops, bottoms and sets....**Give away** – two not matching love seat sofas for someone in need...Nice but not glamorous. Call Unie 527-2740

The Instruction Zone

by Nicki Veale

After two weeks of teaching the new Teen Leadership class Nickki Veale has been amazed at how this is actually working! As I stood at the door greeting students who entered my room (practicing the 8 first impression cues we have been going over) I began to hear the desks in my room being moved around. As I stepped quietly around the corner, I could see my students moving the desks that were in small groups around to make one large group.

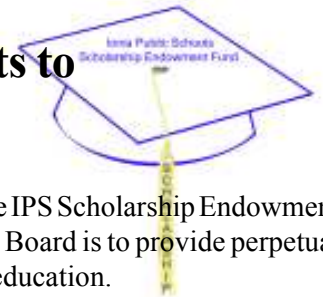
When I asked what was up, they informed me they were a team, no one should be sitting alone, and asked if it was okay for them to do this. I was ecstatic!! It was working!! The thing is, it doesn't stop here. As the students finished coming in, one student who tended to sit on his own didn't sit in the large group, he chose a seat in the back. Before I could say or do anything, the whole group got up and began moving the desks again! They moved the desks to form the large group around where that lone student was sitting. "No one should be excluded from our team!" one student said with a smile. "We want you to be part of the group, you are just as important as the rest of us!" said another student happily.

I couldn't believe my eyes and ears!! Capturing Kids Hearts & Teen Leadership works. I have proof!!

IPS Scholarship Endowment Fund increases to \$750,000



Tax Credit status changes next year on gifts to Michigan Community Foundations



Thanks to the generous giving of the IPS staff and the Ionia community, and a favorable market, the IPS Scholarship Endowment Fund has grown to more than \$750,000 once again. The mission of the Scholarship Fund and its Board is to provide perpetual funding for the distribution of financial grants to graduates of Ionia High School for continuing education.

You may be aware that in May, the Michigan Legislature passed a bill that eliminates the Michigan Community Foundation Tax Credit. The Ionia Public Schools Scholarship Endowment Fund is held with the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, so this action directly impacts our donors. This is the tax *credit* (not just a tax deduction) that provides up to a \$200 State tax credit for gifts of \$400 for married couples and a \$100 State tax credit for gifts of \$200 for a single individual, depending on the individual's tax bracket.

The elimination of these tax credits is effective on January 1, 2012. Gifts made before midnight on December 31, 2011 will still qualify for the tax credit.

As you can see, we all have a few months to take advantage of the Michigan Tax Credit with a charitable contribution to the Scholarship Fund. With your help, we believe we have the potential to reshape the educational goals of our community. At the same time, you can be assured your generosity will reach well into future generations.

If you are able to do so, please consider making your donation now. To qualify for the tax credit, make your check payable to "Grand Rapids Community Foundation" with "Ionia Public Schools Scholarship Endowment Fund" on the memo line. Donations of \$400 and above will be permanently recognized with a leaf on our Donor Recognition Tree located in the high school sports lobby.

Ionia County YMCA hosts

Family Fun Night - Saturday, October 22 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Open swim and open gym! Big Screen Movie (Scooby Doo) begins at 7 in commons area.

\$2 person; \$10 per family



2nd Annual Community Awareness Week in Ionia



Photos by Maureen Meade and Becca Usher

Ionia Public Schools partners with Biggby Coffee of Ionia for Homecoming Week, Oct. 3-9.

Everyone purchasing a super/grande beverage and presenting a coupon (see attached) will contribute \$1 to be divided equally between TWO benefits: The IPS Scholarship Fund and IMS's 6th Grade Camp Scholarship Fund.

Opportunities with Sozo Coffee, Attorney Walt Downes, CPA Mark Jennings, Sid's Flowers

Mindy Hensley of Sozo Coffee wanted to GIVE BACK to Ionia Public Schools and started the ball rolling. Look at the opportunities Sozo Coffee, Attorney Walter Downes, CPA Mark Jennings, and Kevin Kasper of Sid's Flower Shop have offered IPS employees and retirees during the **month of October (1st-31st)**

The money raised will go to the 6th Grade Camp Scholarship Fund.

Continued on page 7



Sozo Gives Back!

Visit Sozo Coffee and tell them you are working or have worked as an employee of the Ionia Public School system. Sozo will give YOU 5% OFF your entire purchase and also donate 5% of your purchase to IPS. (Cash or Charge only and not to be combined with any other offer)

Another option to help out your school is to purchase a gift card. Sozo will give \$20 for every \$100 card and \$5 for every \$50 gift card. Gift cards are great gifts for the holidays and for future purchases as Sozo! (not to be combined with any other options)

Sozo Coffee as a business is excited to partner with the schools and hopes to see many regular customers taking advantage of "giving back" to their school as well as gain new customers!

Sozo Coffee Roasting & Espresso Bar
576 N. State Street
Ionia, MI 48846
616-527-0100

<http://www.facebook.com/>

[XAQD3oBgJAQDzvPq7cA7MuyseBPTd6kWv2zG1Ua4c3r2JnA/www.sozocoffee.com](http://www.facebook.com/XAQD3oBgJAQDzvPq7cA7MuyseBPTd6kWv2zG1Ua4c3r2JnA/www.sozocoffee.com)

Walter J. Downes - Attorney at Law

Walter J. Downes will give YOU 5% OFF legal fees and also donate 5% of your fees to IPS.

<http://www.facebook.com/l/nAQCZWafMAQAO1OHClx4QhBj3A7UV-MwhngDBNnxz8MKtaQ/www.downeslawoffice.com>
616-527-7777
174 East Adams
Ionia, MI 48846

Mark R. Jennings CPA MBA PLC

Tax time is coming!!!! For every \$100 gift card purchased towards accounting services Mark will donate \$20 towards IPS.

http://www.facebook.com/l/_AQBBLaqOAQBC9_ViScU-XiH1cf6sWTTP_7Qiz3FGYU3aAg/www.callmjcpa.com

616-523-6700
111 N Kidd St #100
Ionia, MI 48846

Sid's Flower Shop

Kevin at Sid's Flower Shop will give YOU 5% OFF your entire purchase and also donate 5% of your purchase to IPS.

DATES TO REMEMBER!!!

Ionia Homecoming Oct. 7th and 8th

Don't forget to purchase your Corsage and Boutonniere

Sweetest Day October 15th

Boss's Day October 17th

305 W Main St
Ionia MI 48846
616-527-4660

http://www.facebook.com/l/HAQAD4B-IAQCB0qrByASPPY4_zrFT-w2ke505LGpXcazk8w/www.sidsflowersioniami.com



IHS
Homecoming
Is Underway

Theme is
Candyland

School Spirit
lives!

Upcoming Events:

October 4

STEP Parenting 6 week Program
Rather Elementary, 6-8 p.m.

Beginning October 11

MEAP Testing for Grades 3-9

Week of October 17

Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences

October 27

Autumn Celebraton/Chili Dawg
Challenge
Main Street, 4-7 p.m.

November 2

Community Program on
Cyberbullying, Watt, 7 p.m.

November 12

Mom to Mom Sale,
IHS Gym, 9 to 1 p.m.
Fundraiser for IAAB



Jefferson Kinderstart students wear
Purple Ribbons!