

Mustang News

River Valley School District
www.rivervalleyschools.org



May 2018
Issue



Operating Millage Renewal Election

There will be a special election on Tuesday August 7th to **renew** the current operating millage on non-homestead property. The current millage will expire with the 2018 tax levy. A family's principal residence and other property exempted by law is not included in this millage. Please see page 3 for additional information regarding this millage renewal election.



From the Superintendent . . .



With Memorial Day fast approaching, the 2017/18 school year will soon come to an end and our students will be on summer break. The graduation ceremony for the Class of 2018 will be held on Friday June 1st starting at 7:00 p.m. in the MHS Gymnasium. The valedictorian for this year's graduating class is Joel Doecker, and the salutatorian is Hannah Korbel. All community members are invited to attend this event to celebrate the achievements of our graduating seniors.

Congratulations and thank you to Jane Ringler and Amy Skaggs who will be retiring from River Valley Schools in June. Also, congratulations to our newest inductees in the National Honor Society—Jacob Ashcraft, Connor Brown, Victoria Des Lauries, William Korbel, Aidan Olson, Logan Payne, Emma Springer, Allison Schmidt and Matthew Schmidt. There are now 24 members in the River Valley chapter of NHS.

Thank you to all of the community members who attended one of our Community Lunch Programs this year. We will continue this program again next school year during the months of September, October, November, March, April and May. Our community calendar will be published again next school year, and will be mailed out to all postal patrons in August. Thank you to all community members who have supported this project by advertising in the calendar.

This summer, we will be providing the State of Michigan's summer food service program at three locations: Sawyer Trinity Lutheran Church, New Troy Community Center and Three Oaks School. Please see page 5 for details.

Our sinking fund projects will continue this summer with the following work taking place: two student bathroom renovations at Chikaming, parking lot renovation at Three Oaks, and two student bathroom renovations, locker room renovations and conversion of the former auto shop into a fitness center at the Middle/High School.

If you have any ideas, thoughts, questions, or concerns; please contact me at 269-756-7675.

William J. Kearney

SCHOOL VISITORS

Parents and community members are encouraged to visit our schools. During the school day, please enter at the front entrance of the building. All other doors are locked to maintain a safe and secure environment for our students and staff.

Please report to the office, sign the visitor log, and receive a visitor tag to wear while you are in our building.

Class of 2018

The graduation ceremony for the Class of 2018 will take place on Friday June 1st starting at 7:00 p.m. in the MHS Gymnasium. This year, the River Valley community will celebrate the graduation of 45 students.

The valedictorian for this year's graduating class is Joel Doecker, and the salutatorian is Hannah Korbel.

Congratulations to all of our graduating seniors and their parents for their achievements.



Salutatorian Hannah Korbel and Valedictorian Joel Doecker



ADVERTISERS NEEDED FOR THE 2018/19 RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

We are beginning to compile our annual community calendar. This brightly colored, eye-catching calendar lists all important school functions and days to remember from September through August. Calendars will be distributed to all River Valley parents and community members in August 2018. River Valley stakeholders can support this endeavor by placing a full color ad in the calendar, and getting your message out to the entire River Valley Community.

- Ad on a month page 12 available \$150.00
- Ad on extended cover Only 1 available \$1,000.00

For more information, contact Will Kearney at 269-756-7675 or wkearney@rivervalleyschools.org.



RV Elementary Volunteering

On March 15th, approximately 50 elementary students joined Ms. Coleman at the Three Oaks American Legion after school to help serve families with the Mobile Food Pantry. They also worked with the Harbor Country Mission to pack Easter baskets and make cards for victims of the recent flooding in our area. They also presented Mr. Heyn with a check from the recent Healthy Hearts fundraiser. Our kids really know how to care for others!

Submitted by Terry Bronson



Jane Ringler
Fifth Grade Teacher
41 years



**CONGRATULATIONS
AND THANK YOU TO
OUR STAFF MEMBERS
WHO WILL BE
RETIRING IN JUNE.**



Amy Skaggs
MHS Art Teacher
16 years



**Boys' and Girls' Track Team members
showing RV pride during their
community service project in April.**



2018/19 Athletic Physicals

The Southwest Medical Clinic will be offering athletic physicals for the 2018/19 school year on Tuesday, May 29, 2018. They will be held at River Valley Middle/High School beginning at 8:00 a.m. The physicals will be done during the school day. The physical would include all sports for next school year. **In order to participate in a sport or to begin practice your child MUST have a physical and your insurance information on file.**

Advance registration with required pre-payment is going on now in the RVMHS office. The cost is only \$30. Cash or checks are accepted. Checks should be made payable to: Lakeland Medical Practices (LMP), and the student's name is to be written in the memo line.

Take advantage of this opportunity since it assures you that your child will be all set to begin their sport for next school year.

If you have any questions or would like to register, please contact Tammie Schmidt at 269-756-9541, extension 1015.



**River Valley School District
Special Election
August 7, 2018**

Operating Millage Renewal - actual ballot language:

Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation of 19.6348 mills (\$19.6348 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, in River Valley School District, Berrien County, Michigan, be renewed for a period of 6 years, 2019 to 2024, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and 18 mills are levied in 2019 is approximately \$7,892,660 (this is a renewal of millage which will expire with the 2018 tax levy)?

*By law, to obtain its full Total Foundation Allowance, River Valley School District must collect an 18 mill local "non-homestead" operating millage to fulfill the budget. The State reduces its obligation to districts that levy less than 18 mills by the same amount and only pays the balance. **Therefore, voter approval to renew the school district's non-homestead operating millage is needed to enable the school district to continue to collect 18 mills on non-homestead property to obtain full funding.***

What does "non-homestead" mean?

Non-homestead represents industrial, commercial and some agricultural property and "second homes." A family's primary residence is not included. This millage is not levied against homestead properties.

Why is there a proposal for 19.6348 mills?

By law, River Valley School District is only authorized to levy a maximum of 18 mills for operating purposes. However, every year, "the Headlee Amendment" requires a rollback in local authorized millage rates if the local tax base increases more than inflation. The maximum authorized millage can only be restored when there are more than 18 mills available.

If the millage is approved by the voters, the additional 1.6348 mills would be available to restore possible future Headlee reductions to the authorized millage rate in order for River Valley to continue to levy the full 18 mills on non-homestead property in years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Questions??? Please contact us at 269-756-9541.



Will Kearney, Superintendent
wkearney@rivervalleyschools.org

Brian Brown, Business Manager
bbrown@rivervalleyschools.org



SAWYER CARDIO DRUMMING

Since November, community members have been coming together at Chikaming Elementary on Tuesday evenings to exercise through a Cardio Drumming workout. "Sawyer Cardio Drumming" has become a huge success. Every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m., there are 3-4 new individuals along with many devoted participants who haven't missed a class yet. Not only do the members workout together but they are quickly forming a strong bond where they share their successes and struggles on their journey to a healthier lifestyle. There is a Facebook group that grows weekly with over 100 members. Their post-workout picture is posted on the page every Tuesday to proudly display their efforts each week. Shelly Taylor, who started the program, indicated that some have mentioned that this is the best part of their week and others have said that they don't even realize its exercise because it's so much fun. Shelly loves to see the new faces, and she encourages anyone and everyone, no matter the age, to attend. The goal is that we always just KEEP MOVING for the hour. For more information, request to be added to our "Sawyer Cardio Drumming" Facebook page or contact Shelly Taylor.

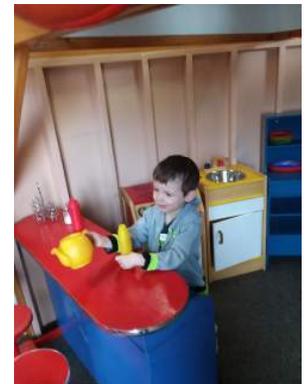
Submitted by Shelly Taylor




THE POKAGON FUND

Thank you to The Pokagon Fund for funding the following bus trips this school year:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Preschool | Curious Kids Museum |
| Kindergarten | Potawatomi Zoo |
| 1st Grade | Lincoln Park Zoo |
| 2nd Grade | Curious Kids Museum |
| 3rd Grade | Ford Museum |
| 4th Grade | Lansing Capitol |
| 5th Grade | Art Institute |
| 9th Grade | Grand Valley State University |
| 10th Grade | Western Michigan University |
| 11th Grade | Notre Dame University |



DISTRICT SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Listed below are updates from the February, March and April District School Improvement Team meetings:

Elementary School Buildings

- Several staff attended the Reading Now Network symposium, which focused on family engagement.
- Elementary students participated in the Mobile Food Pantry and made Easter baskets for the flood victims.
- Data is showing a lot of growth in reading and math overall. Growth is being seen in both high achieving and low achieving students.
- State testing was going well and the testing schedule appeared to be working better.

Middle/High School Building

- The #RV reads social media campaign promoted the choice reading program.
- Staff has been focusing on creating tiered assessments and will work on creating rubrics next.
- A career lecture series began and there have been speakers from law enforcement and healthcare so far.
- Reporting standards are being reviewed to identify any gaps that exist. Teachers continue to use ICE time for interventions.

Other Items

- Topics of discussion included school safety, student growth data reports and the school accountability reports.

Upcoming Meetings (All meetings start at 4:30 p.m. and are held in the MHS Library)

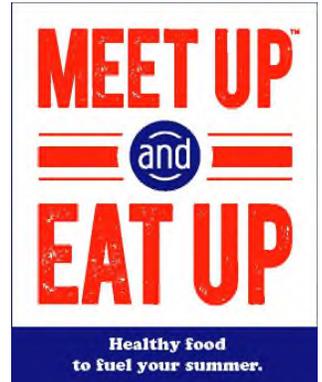
- Wednesday May 30

All parents and community members are welcome to attend these meetings.



Congratulations to Joy Ackerman

Joy Ackerman was honored at the 14th Annual PAC "Excellence in Education" Awards Banquet on Tuesday March 13th hosted at the Berrien RESA for demonstrating excellence in her work with students with impairments. The Special Education Parents Advisory Committee (PAC) works to increase awareness about special education in Berrien County. Mrs. Ackerman was nominated for the award by Elementary Principal Mrs. Clark. Mrs. Ackerman was recognized for her work with implementing personalized action plans to ensure the success of students both at school and at home. Mrs. Ackerman was chosen as one of the five top finalists out of 12 persons nominated for the award.



Second Graders Visit the Sarett Nature Center



"MEET UP AND EAT UP" PROGRAM

River Valley will run the Michigan Department of Education's Summer Food Service Program in the following locations this summer:

- **Sawyer Trinity Lutheran Church**—5791 Sawyer Road in Sawyer
Monday through Friday, June 11 to August 31
Breakfast: 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.
Lunch: 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
- **New Troy Community Center**—13372 California Road in New Troy
Monday through Friday, June 18 to August 10
Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- **Three Oaks Elementary**—100 Oak Street in Three Oaks
Monday through Thursday, July 9 to August 9
Breakfast: 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
Lunch: 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

There is no charge for the meals to children 18 and under. The cost for adults is \$1.00 for breakfast and \$2.00 for lunch. For more information, contact Jenny Jones at 756-7606.

From the Desk of Three Oaks Township Library Director Cheryl Kersey—

Libraries = Community

Today’s libraries function as community information centers. We see examples of this every day at the Three Oaks Township Public Library. Here are a just few examples that show how community is created at the library:

- “Preschool Story Time” meets every Wednesday at 10:30. It’s great to see children having fun while they learn to love reading!
- “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” program is a fun and free way to start your child on the path to success! Any child from birth to five years of age can participate. Just stop in the library to register and pick up your welcome bag of program materials.
- People that want to keep moving are meeting every Tuesday and Thursday at 11:00 a.m. for exercise – Qi-Gong is every Tuesday and Walking Aerobics is every Thursday. Both are led by a volunteer with the use of a DVD and everyone is always welcome.
- An established Needlework Group that has been together for about 12 years meets at the library on Thursdays from 5:30 – 6:30. Why knit (or crochet or do cross stitch) at home when you can do it with the company of others?
- The coffee pot is always on! Stop in to grab a free cup of coffee (provided by the Friends of Three Oaks Library) while you catch up with today’s newspaper or just chat with friends.

It was a busy winter at the Three Oaks Public Library and we’re expecting the summer to be even busier. Summer Reading for school-age children will start June 25; brochures will be available soon. Wait until you see what we are planning!

Your library card is a great way to save money on family entertainment. We offer over 2,000 DVD titles, including over 200 TV series, over 70 print magazine subscriptions, over 23,000 print books and access to over 10,000 e-books through Overdrive. We’re expanding our “Library of Things” with new adult puzzles and we will soon offer more games for children through adults. Why buy when you can borrow them for free?

If you think of something we could be doing or offering, please let us know by calling 756-5621. The Three Oaks Township Public Library is committed to pursuing more partnerships with local entities and increasing the scope and frequency of programs for all ages.

When was the last time you stopped by YOUR Three Oaks Township Public Library?



Community Calendar Coming in August
The River Valley School District Community Calendar will be published again this year, and will be mailed out in August. Thank you to the community members who supported this project by advertising in the calendar.



SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS ON THE RADIO

River Valley School District Board of Education meetings are recorded and broadcast over WRHC 106.7 LPFM. The scheduled broadcast times are Mondays at 10:00 a.m.





NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION

On April 22nd, the Phoebus Chapter of the National Honor Society inducted nine new members. Candidates are initially considered according to their grade point average, the scholarship cornerstone of NHS. River Valley requires a 3.60 GPA. The average national requirement is 3.50. The cornerstones of leadership, character and service are evaluated by the candidates' teachers and by someone in the community. The candidates must also compose an essay explaining why they should be considered to be a member of the National Honor Society. The final step is review and evaluation by a designated Faculty Council. The River Valley chapter currently has 24 members (11 seniors, 4 juniors and 9 sophomores). Along with earning excellent grades, our members are active in varsity sports, graphic arts, performing arts and in Student Congress.

Congratulations to our new NHS members!

Submitted by Pam Kaniuga



SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION IS NOVEMBER 6, 2018

River Valley School District will have two Board seats up for election on Tuesday November 6, 2018. The terms of Board members Fred Knutel and David Whitlow expire on December 31, 2018. Board member terms are six years. Any registered voter of River Valley School District can run for election as a School Board member. **The candidate filing deadline for the November election is July 24, 2018 before 4:00 p.m. with the Berrien County Clerk's office.**

For more information, contact the River Valley School District Office at 756-9541 or the Berrien County Clerk's Office at 269-983-7111 extension 8264.



Don Quijote Spanish Trip

A handful of River Valley's top Spanish students attended Semana Cultural at Don Quijote Restaurant in Valparaiso, Indiana. Students enjoyed several typical Spanish dishes; and after the meal were treated to a presentation of Flamenco song and dance.

Submitted by Eric Munyon

Congratulations to Ms. Edwards and the H.S. Band students for their outstanding performance at the MSBOA State Band Festival in Paw Paw on April 27th. The Band received straight Division 1 ratings.



"Home of the Mustangs"

RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
15480 Three Oaks Road
Three Oaks, Michigan 49128
www.rivervalleyschools.org

Main Number: (269) 756-9541

Chikaming Elementary: (269) 426-4204

Three Oaks Elementary: (269) 756-9050

Middle/High School: (269) 756-7872

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The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category, (collectively, "Protected Classes"), in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities. The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's "Compliance Officers": Mrs. Heidi Clark, Elementary Principal (extensions 1601/1701) or Mr. Patrick Breen, Middle/High School Principal (extension 1032), 15480 Three Oaks Road, Three Oaks, MI 49128, 269-756-9541.

Upcoming Dates:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| May 8 | Spring Band Concert—MHS Auditorium 7:00 p.m. |
| May 9 | H.S. Student Congress Blood Drive |
| May 12 | Elementary Super Saturday—Three Oaks |
| May 15 | Spring Choir Concert—MHS Auditorium 7:00 p.m. |
| May 17 | Community Lunch Program—MHS 1:00 p.m. |
| May 20 | Baccalaureate Ceremony—MHS Auditorium 4:00 p.m. |
| May 21 | School Board meeting—MHS Library 7:00 p.m. |
| May 22 | MS Oration Contest—MHS Library 6:00 p.m. |
| May 23 | Elementary E-Club Run—Three Oaks |
| | Senior Awards Night—MHS Auditorium 7:00 p.m. |
| May 25 | Seniors Last Full Day of Classes |
| May 28 | No school—Memorial Day |
| May 29 | Athletic Physicals—MHS |
| May 30 | District School Improvement Team meeting—MHS Library 4:30 p.m. |
| June 1 | Class of 2018 Graduation Ceremony—MHS Gymnasium 7:00 p.m. |
| June 6 | RV Challenge at Three Oaks |
| | Half day of school for students (MHS Exams) |
| | MHS Awards Night—MHS Auditorium 6:00 p.m. |
| June 7 | RV Challenge at Chikaming |
| | Half day of school for students (MHS Exams) |
| June 8 | Upper Elementary Awards—Three Oaks 9:30 a.m. |
| | Half day of school for students (MHS Exams) |
| | Last day of school |
| June 17 | Flag Day Parade 3:00 p.m. |
| June 25 | School Board meeting—MHS Library 7:00 p.m. |
| July 9 | K-12 Summer School begins |
| July 23 | School Board meeting—MHS Library 7:00 p.m. |
| August 9 | K-12 Summer School ends |
| August 27 | School Board meeting—MHS Library 7:00 p.m. |
| September 4 | First day of school—Half day for students |



Walkers Welcome

The Middle/High School halls are open to walkers from **3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday when school is in session.** Signs designating the walking route are posted in the halls along with the distance for each loop.



"Like us" on Facebook to stay updated on the various events and happenings of our district.

