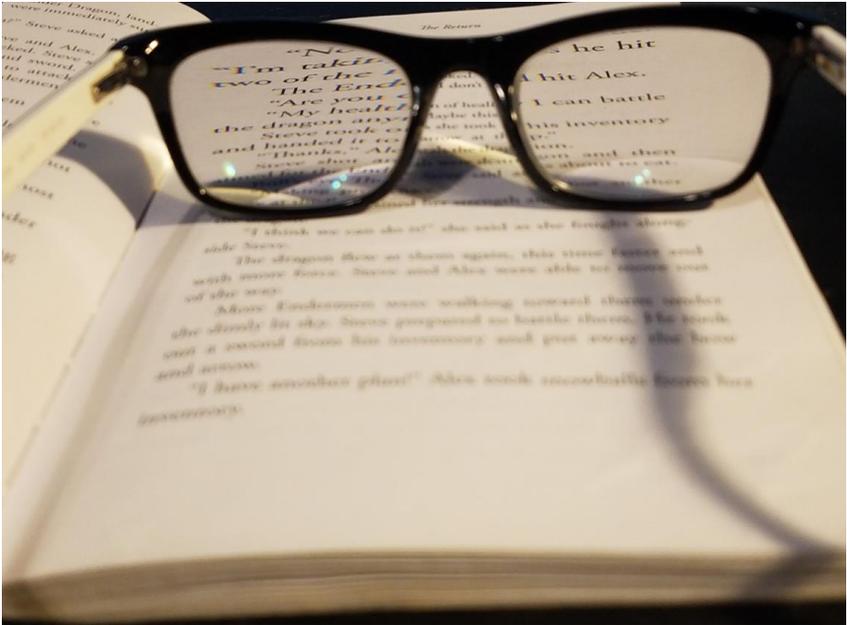


Livonia
PTSA Council

66th Annual Founders' Day
Look Within



2020 PTA Reflections
Photography Award of Excellence
David Gerstenbrand, Cleveland Elementary School
"Do You See What I See?"
February 12, 2020
VisTaTech Center | Livonia, Michigan
Advocate • Communicate • Support

www.livoniaptscouncil.org

Eagle Eye



2020 PTA Reflections
Olivia VanAcker, Frost Middle School
"Eagle Eye"

Livonia **PTSA** Council

Founders' Day is a reminder of the substantial role that PTA has played locally, regionally, and nationally in supporting parent involvement and working on behalf of all children and families. It's a time to reflect and take pride in our many accomplishments, and to renew our commitment to be a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for parents, and a strong advocate for public education.

PTA's founders, Pheobe Apperson Hearst and Alice McLellan Birney, and the founder of Georgia's Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, Selena Sloan Butler, were women of imagination and courage. They understood the power of individual action, worked beyond the accepted barriers of their day, and took action to literally change the world.

They had a simple idea - to improve the lives and futures of all of our children. As much as other conditions in America may have changed, that idea has not. PTAs keep it alive.

Today, PTA is the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the nation. Our members represent the ethnic diversity of our nation, and they come from the ranks of traditional families, single-parent households, blended families, grandparents, and other caring adults. Together, we continue to serve as the conscience of the country for children and youth.

Founders' Day Celebration Program

5:30 pm	Check In
6:00 pm	
Welcome	Debbie Pline Livonia PTSA Council
Remarks	Andrea Oquist Superintendent
6:30 pm	Dinner - Buffet Style
7:15 pm	Awards Ceremony
	Spirit of PTSA Award - Samantha and Elizabeth Sullivan, Frost Middle School
Closing Remarks	Kellie Dummer Livonia PTSA Council

Cover artwork

Theme: Look Within

Artist Statement:

When I got my first pair of glasses, I was only one year old. I really loved them because they helped me see the world. Without my glasses, everything is blurry and all I can see are colors. Some people can see normally, but some people see what I see.

2019-2020 Livonia Public Schools Elementary Educator of the Year

Kitty Yost

Kitty Yost is a 27-year employee of Livonia Public Schools and is a fifth-grade teacher at Cooper Upper Elementary.

Mrs. Yost is well known throughout the school district as a positive role model for students and staff alike. She is involved in numerous district- and school-based committees and is a past recipient of several awards. Her teaching philosophy is one that centers around kindness, compassion, hard work and the knowledge that students will do their best learning if they feel safe and loved. Mrs. Yost goes the extra mile to get to know her students by discovering their interests and their special gifts. She does not hesitate to go well above and beyond to connect with her students and to support her colleagues at Cooper and throughout the district. She is a highly skilled educator who sets the bar high for maintaining quality instructional practices in her classroom and for displaying genuine care and compassion for her students.



2019-2020 Livonia Public Schools Secondary Educator of the Year

Christianne Antonelli

Christi Antonelli is a 20-year employee of Livonia Public Schools and teaches Marketing and Business at Stevenson High School. She is involved in numerous school committees and she leads the 70-member Stevenson DECA marketing student chapter. She has formed connections with area businesses, in order to give her students hands-on business marketing experiences and brings prior marketing industry experience to the classroom. She serves on the Michigan DECA Advisory Board and is a member of Michigan Marketing Educators. She has received numerous awards for her teaching practices and service in marketing education. She believes it is important to not only teach her students the tenets of business and marketing, but to instill the “soft skills” that are required to become productive, responsible and thoughtful members of society.

Ms. Antonelli goes above and beyond for her students to offer experiences outside of the classroom, even accompanying students to DECA competitions out of state to ensure they are supported in their pursuits.



2019-2020 Livonia Public Schools

Support Staff of the Year

Abigail Knoph

Abby Knoph is a 3-year employee of Livonia Public Schools and serves as a paraprofessional, working with students ages 18-26 at the Western Wayne Skill Center, located at Garfield Community School.



Abby serves as assistant to the behavior consultant in the Student Support Center at WWSC and is known for her ability to manage behaviors, build relationships, motivate students and provide students with the tools they need to become successful in school and in the community. She is involved in student success by serving as a mentor, managing the Student of the Month program and the Birthday Club, and also by coaching the WWSC travel basketball team. She serves on school-based committees and is known to support students by attending Special Olympics events and more.

Abby is a product of Livonia Public Schools and also serves as a basketball coach at Stevenson High School, her alma mater.

Thank you to Our Local PTA & PTSA Units!

2019-2020 Livonia PTA Presidents & Principals

Unit	President	Principal
Buchanan	Valerie Jackson	Jonathon Wennstrom
Churchill	Debbie Pline	Kevin Etue
Cleveland	Natalie Anderson	Rob Witherspoon
Coolidge	Jessica Howlin	Kristina Collyer
Cooper	Helena Stylianou	Shalonda Owens
Emerson	Melissa Boyce	Ann Owen
Franklin	Laura Ulaszek	Andrew Pesci
Frost	Renee Titus	Anthony Abbate
Grant	Lauren Peters	Jennifer Keatts
Hayes	Ricki Toth	Larry Grezak
Holmes	Madeline Acosta	DeAnn Urso
Hoover	Tracey Schenk	Julie Linn
Jackson Center	Erin Schrieber	Gayle Fedoronko
Johnson	Michelle Pawl	Shanan Wheeler
Kennedy	Sara Bennett	Danielle Daniels
Niji-Iro	Aya Yasukawa-Dudzinski	Lawrence DeLuca
Randolph	Kendall Goddard	Mike Daraskavich
Riley	Todd Davis	Kristyn Cousino
Roosevelt	Tara Moeller	William Green
Rosedale	Judy Franklin	Paula Kohler
Stevenson	Karen Bradford	Gary Harper
Webster	Chris Chmura	Lora Boka

2019-2020 Distinguished PTA Parents, Staff and Students

We are honoring the best of Livonia Public Schools. These Distinguished volunteers embody the values of PTA:

- **Collaboration:** We work in partnership with a wide array of individuals and organizations to accomplish our agreed-upon goals.
- **Commitment:** We are dedicated to promoting children's health, well-being, and educational success through strong parent, family and community involvement.
- **Accountability:** We acknowledge our obligations. We deliver on our promises.
- **Respect:** We value our colleagues and ourselves. We expect the same high quality of effort and thought from ourselves as we do from others.
- **Inclusivity:** We invite the stranger and welcome the newcomer. We value and seek input from as wide a spectrum of viewpoints and experiences as possible.
- **Integrity:** We act consistently with our beliefs. When we err, we acknowledge the mistake and seek to make amends.

Each of these honorees has earned the respect and admiration of their fellow PTSA members and teachers by being an active, positive member and leader in their PTA. We are also proud to recognize the Livonia Public Schools Teachers of the Year.

Livonia PTSA Council congratulates all those honored tonight. Also, a huge THANK YOU to ALL of our PTA members, teachers and staff who work so hard to make our school district great.

Buchanan Elementary School

Staff - Michelle Adams

Generous, Caring, Committed, and Involved member for 5 years. Ms. Adams is in her 19th year as a teacher at Buchanan. She is always the first staff member to volunteer to help at PTA events and to express her support for the PTA to parents and students. At our last Spring Fling, she signed up for a half hour time slot and ended up staying for the entire 2 hours helping in any place we were short on volunteers. At this year's Boo Bash, Ms. Adams was present in costume to pass out candy and put smiles on students' faces for over an hour. Ms. Adams is truly committed to doing all that she can to make sure that Buchanan students and families feel welcome and have the best experience possible at Buchanan - both at school hours and at special events.. We are lucky to have someone at Buchanan who is not only a wonderful teacher, but also a great partner to and supporter of the PTA. Thank you, Ms. Adams!

Parent - Jennifer Emm

Organized, Efficient, Accountable, and Committed member for 19 years. Jennifer has been a member of the Buchanan PTA since her daughter started kindergarten five years ago. From the beginning she was eager to help and full of ideas for improving our school. Jennifer served as Corresponding Secretary for two years on the board and as Treasurer for the past two years. As Treasurer, Jennifer helped implement a new budgeting process and is always on top of requests and reimbursements. She is always present and willing to help at all of our events (even if it means re-organizing her work schedule). She is a true super woman! Jennifer has also co-chaired many events including the Boo Bash and the VIP dance, which she and another member started 4 years ago. We are sad that Jennifer will be moving on to Riley with her daughter next year. Her organization, dedication, efficiency, and accountability will be greatly missed. She has been a highly valued member of Buchanan's PTA for many years - and Buchanan will be lucky to have her back when her twins start school in a few years!

Cleveland Elementary School

Staff - Katie Bone

Caring, Inspiring, Dedicated, and Fun member for several years. Ms. Bone is a great teacher advocate for the PTA and serves as one of our teacher liaisons! She attends PTA meetings and events whenever possible. She is always willing to lend a hand! Making sure the students are safe, cared for, and learning in fun and creative ways is always at the forefront of everything she does at Cleveland. Ms. Bone is very supportive of the PTA and of the Cleveland community. We are so thankful for the positive role model she is for the students and for everything she does to make Cleveland the wonderful school that it is!

Parent - Amber Kiselewski

Generous, Caring, Helpful, and Thoughtful member for 4 years. Amber is an invaluable member of Cleveland's PTA family! She has been active in the PTA since her son began kindergarten. She has chaired Youth Making a Difference and Halloween Night at our school. She has served on the board as the Vice President and the Recording Secretary but is really so much more to our school community. Amber is always willing to go above and beyond to help any staff member, parent or student. Not only does she do a tremendous amount of work for the PTA, she can also be found helping in classrooms and the library. Amber is greatly appreciated at Cleveland!



Educators of the Year, Christianne Antonelli, Abigail Knoph, Kitty Yost, with LPS Superintendent Andrea Oquist

Coolidge Elementary School

Staff - Jill Fawkes

Dedicated, Team player, Outgoing, and Consistent member

Jill is always willing to jump in and lend a hand anywhere that is needed. She is an advocate for all students and consistently ensures students are being respectful and welcoming within our building. She has been working on starting up new programs to promote respect and inclusivity.

Parent - Nadia Sierzega

Committed, Friendly, Organized, and Reliable

Nadia is a great example of a PTA advocate in that she is always present and supports the needs of the students and staff. She regularly attends meetings, actively volunteers, and she started our Coolidge family movie nights and still runs them now. She also puts in a lot of time helping find donations, discounts and ways for us to fundraise and think of new ideas for the school community.



2020 PTA Reflections

Priel Kimiagarov, Coolidge Elementary School

"The Artist"

Grant Elementary School

Staff - John Letavis

Reliable, Dedicated, Caring, and Supportive member for 10 years. John is the best of the best. He assists in the execution of every event, from start to finish. Despite his incredibly demanding schedule, he always finds the time to tackle what we need of him and does so with a constant smile and kind demeanor. He is supportive in all that we do and has never once complained, no matter what the task. He has a true interest in whatever we are planning and always asks how he can help. John is 110 percent committed to the students and staff and works tirelessly to promote a sense of community. We, simply, cannot live without him!

Parent - Whitney Schutte

Creative, Enthusiastic, Dedicated, and Reliable member for 6 years. Whitney is a true asset to the Grant community. Any time that we have approached her for assistance she has risen to the occasion and wowed us all. Each month she puts out a newsletter that promotes upcoming PTA events and school happenings. She devotes countless hours to photographing and documenting events for our yearbook. Each year she has worked the school welcome table and greets everyone in a professional and welcoming manner. She attends all PTA meetings and events and supports all that we do. We appreciate the innovative ideas that Whitney brings to the table and the enthusiasm that she has for building school spirit. We are so thankful to have Whitney at Grant!

Hayes Elementary School

Staff - Kelly Thompson

Patient, Caring, Driven, and Welcoming member. Mrs. Thompson is a 1st Grade teacher who makes such a huge impact on all of her students as a whole and individually as well. She takes the time to get to know each student on a personal level and makes them feel important and confident. She helps her students find their path at a time in their lives when they are starting to create relationships outside of their families, such as first grade. Not only is she an amazing teacher, but she is also involved in school committees such as The LMC Task Force, Math Leader, and School Improvement Team. She spends a lot of time creating a warm and comfortable environment for Hayes students to learn and thrive. Many adults can remember that one teacher who made an impact in their life somehow and we have no doubt that Mrs. Thompson is THAT teacher for so many of her students...past, present, and future.

Parent - Jonathan Bailey

Dependable, Kind, Giving, and Genuine member for 3 years. Jon has been a volunteer at Hayes in the PTA as well as his children's classrooms for 3 years. He is always ready and willing to help. He's available whether it's before work or after. If you need some random thing to make an event work, Jon is running home because he has just the thing to fix it. You'll find him running the bake sale, setting up the Color Run course, helping a student practice their reading, or handing out hot chocolate to Hayes Girl Scouts in a parade. He greets everyone with a warm smile and a welcoming Hello! Whatever he may be doing, Jon does it with a positive attitude that rubs off on the others around him. Jon also supports his wife, Laura, in her volunteering roles at Hayes. They are an amazing team that offer their talents, time, and energy to all things Hayes. We consider ourselves incredibly lucky to have Jon at our school and we thank him for all he does.

Hoover Elementary School

Staff - Karen Wilcox

Interesting, Hard Working, Kind, and Accommodating PTA member. Karen runs our kitchen at Hoover. Our PTA is very active and always needs the kitchen for meals at events. Karen is happy to let us borrow her space and even offers to help. We could not serve food without her consent. We are lucky to have such a wonderful staff partner at Hoover!

Parent - Amanda Rice

Considerate, Hard Working, Reliable, and Dedicated member for 5 years. Amanda has been handling our PTA membership for years. She is a silent ninja who simply gets the job done without having to be reminded. She is organized and stays on top of everything. With such a busy PTA schedule, it's nice to know we can always rely on her.

Jackson Center

Staff - Amy Basler

Compassionate, Practical, Resourceful, and Passionate member for 8 years. Amy is a strong supporter of the Jackson Center PTA. Although her class is of our youngest students, the infants, she does not let that dissuade her from promoting our meetings, fundraisers, and events. In fact, almost all of our board members have had her as a teacher for our children. Amy is a great advocate for children and she shows great integrity for her job daily.

Parent - Adrienne Floyd

Kind, Giving, Exceptional, and Driven member for 3 years. Adrienne exemplifies PTA values with her commitment to the children and teachers we help each year. Adrienne started as our Box Tops chair, and took on Membership this year as well, and always does her role with integrity. She is always eager to help more and works well with all of our members and teachers.

Kennedy Elementary School

Staff - Alicia Bashawaty

Selfless, Inspiring, Dedicated, and Motivated member for 4 years. With great pleasure, Kennedy Elementary PTA would like to nominate Alicia Bashawaty as our recipient for the 2020 Distinguished Staff Award. Alicia goes above and beyond to help students and staff all around the building. She will help the staff with any technical issues that arise, and she works with teachers to present STEM activities to the students. She holds dual roles as both the librarian and technology teacher. Alicia makes sure students have the ability to work independently and successfully on the computers. She works beyond standard hours to ensure that each child can complete their projects and teachers are adequately supported, and to support efforts for beautification and holidays. Alicia seeks educational partners such as the Ann Arbor Science Museum and book authors while coordinating events for the school. These events result in high motivation and engagement from the children. While PTA funding may be available to support initiatives, she always seeks support from additional sources outside of the school before utilizing the PTA's resources.

Parent - Erin Piper

Involved, Considerate, Thoughtful, and Energetic member for 2 years. Kennedy Elementary PTA would like to nominate Erin Piper as the recipient of the 2020 Distinguished Parent Award. Erin is a considerate and involved member of our PTA. She has given her time as a presenter for Masterworks, a monitor at Mileage club and chairing the Reflections committee. Erin actively voices support and encouragement for our PTA and students on our social media platforms as well as in person in a respectful manor. By committing to chair The Reflections committee this year, she brought enthusiasm and insights for how to better support this program in our school next year. She holds herself accountable and despite facing health challenges this year she continued to attend meetings and volunteer her time when needed. Having Erin as a member of our PTA makes us stronger as a unit. I find her to be thoughtful and insightful about her contributions and a genuinely kind person.

Niji Iro Japanese Immersion Elementary School

Staff - Mari Igarashi

Dedicated, Tenacious, Committed, and Encouraging member for 5 years. Mari Sensei exemplifies PTA values by her dedication to the student body and her efforts towards creating a more comprehensive and inclusive curriculum to accommodate the school's immersion program and diverse student body. She recognizes the individual student's different needs and learning capabilities and puts forth tremendous effort to support them as they thrive and grow. She recognizes that the child and family supported together creates synergy, and a stronger sense of community within the school. Her positive attitude and relentless commitment towards students' learning and growth as an individual is definitely recognized and deeply appreciated.

Parent - Leslie & Jesse Mason

Dedicated, Talented, Curious, and Fun members for 3 years. Leslie and Jesse Mason exemplify PTA values by their dedication to the school and students by not only selflessly sharing their gifts with others, but by also really encouraging others to recognize and share their own unique gifts and talents as well. They are warm and kind people who are generous with their time and compassion towards the immersion program and the diverse school community.



Students at Niji Iro

Randolph Elementary School

Staff - Mike Daraskavich

Respected, Dedicated, Approachable, and Knowledgeable member for several years. When you walk through the doors of Randolph Elementary School, you will see Principal Mike Daraskavich interacting with the students in the halls, at lunch, and especially in classrooms. His door is always open and he is constantly working on ways to improve the school, from education to the overall school community. Mr. D is continually supporting the PTA in so many ways. He is the first person at our PTA meetings every month and contributes his thoughts and updates with care. He is always willing to answer emails and in-person questions about school protocol and integrating new ideas into the school. When new ideas are pitched from the PTA, he dives right in to help put these ideas into action and is always going above and beyond to help. The kids are so honored to know how much their principal cares for them by seeing his participation in the school activities. The Randolph PTA is lucky to have such a dedicated, kind and caring leader to work with and we are grateful for his continual support.

Parent - Heather Flack

Hard working, Committed, Generous, and Dedicated member for 7 years. Heather is a committed volunteer that is always willing to help with any and every task. With her vast knowledge of the school and PTA system, she is constantly taking on tasks and projects to help the PTA run smoothly. Heather has been an active PTA member with Randolph for 7 years and was previously the PTA President. With this experience under her belt, she has helped transition the new board and still plays an active role in helping with tasks as they arise. Heather always goes above and beyond to help. Her projects are always grand, and she doesn't stop until things are perfect. The staff knows that they can count on her to help them with any task, big or small. Heather has wonderful, creative ideas and collaborates well when working with others. She is well-respected by the staff and so much of the Randolph community. We are so very thankful to have her as our top volunteer. Her dedication is appreciated beyond words!

Roosevelt Elementary School

Staff - Heather Pac

Hard-working, Compassionate, Thoughtful, and Patient member for 2.5 years. Roosevelt was very lucky to gain Heather as the new Secretary back in 2017. Right from her first day, she jumped in and took charge. Heather is the backbone of the school and is a tremendous asset to the PTA as well. We can always count on her to answer any questions we may have and help on many tasks that need to be taken care of. She is an active volunteer at our MOD pizza nights, working behind the counter making pizzas and putting smiles on all the kids faces. Another big night at Roosevelt is our Color Run. Heather always shows up ready to have fun, run around, and get pelted with color. From approving our flyers and making sure they are on the school website, to dealing with all our daily needs as a PTA; she does it with grace, warmth, and always with a smile (even when the office is filled with crying children who all need band-aids). We have grown to love Heather not only as our wonderful secretary, but as our friend as well.

Parent - Tara Moeller

Selfless, Caring, Dedicated, and Fun member for 5 years. Tara Moeller is an amazing volunteer in the Roosevelt community and a shining example of PTA values in action. As our unit President, she always has our student's best interest in mind when choosing events for our school year. From the Color Run to the Halloween Bash, Tara's leadership has turned these into must- attend events for Roosevelt families. Her countless hours of dedication shine through as she receives hugs in the halls from students at every grade level. Even when not performing official PTA duties, Tara takes time to volunteer in her daughter's classroom and help around the rest of the school. Not forgetting about our wonderful Roosevelt staff, Tara has ensured we continue to raise the bar when it comes to staff appreciation. I honestly can't imagine our Unit without Tara and we have developed a wonderful friendship over the last 5 years while supporting our Roosevelt students. It is an honor to serve with her and I appreciate all that she does.

Rosedale Elementary School

Staff - Angela Sutton

Hardworking, Kind, Funny, and Wise member for 3 years. Angela is the person we turn to for anything that should come up. She has helped us tremendously with all of our planning of events, concerns that arise, and has made a huge impact on not only our PTA but our school community as a whole. Being parent volunteers, she has helped and guided us through almost anything. She has a way of solving the unsolvable and has, at many times, been our voice when we needed it. She continues to be someone who we can turn to and rely on for support and wisdom. We are incredibly grateful for Angela, she is what makes our PTA strong and reliable.

Parent - Kathleen Barcroft

Hard working, Kind, Generous, and Thoughtful member for 2 years. Kathleen always volunteers and supports Rosedale and the PTA in whatever needs to be done. She shows up always willing to lend a hand, eager and positive. Parents like Kathleen help make PTA's strong at schools, which is so vital and priceless. We appreciate Kathleen immensely for her grace and work ethic.



2020 National PTA Reflections
Brynn Richards, Rosedale Elementary
"Feelings"

Webster Elementary School

Staff - Christine Lakatos

Creative, Environmentalist, Energetic, and Committed member for 10 years. Ms. Lakatos is the art teacher at Webster. Not only does she wonderfully teach the diverse population, but she goes above and beyond, spending lots of her free time with students. She runs the 6th Grade Art Club. She also does things for the school and PTA. This year, Ms. Lakatos suggested adding an aerial art project to the PTA's annual Walkathon. The entire school and staff collaborated and was a part of this great effort, creating a paw print in a globe viewable from the sky! Ms. Lakatos led Webster's involvement in the City of Livonia's Merry and Bright parade the past 3 years and is currently working on having a bench made out of recycled bottle caps for Webster's Grandparent Garden as the 6th Grade Send-Off gift. She can always be counted on to help whenever the PTA needs help. Ms. Lakatos values her students and uses creative means to not only teach them art, but how to see the world. Ms. Lakatos continuously exhibits the values of the PTA and is a true partner!

Parent - Monique Cadoret

Dedicated, Hard-working, Funny, and Amazing member for 7 years. 200 words does not seem like enough to describe Monique and her commitment to Webster. She jumped right in 7 years ago, and has consistently served on the board the entire time. Monique is everything you want in a board member: someone with not only the vision of how to improve things, but the willingness to put actions behind the words. Monique chairs a variety of activities, such as Walkathon and Reflections, to name a few. Even if Monique isn't in charge, she is always there, helping and asking what needs to be done. Monique is an incredible wealth of the legalities of running a PTA. She has nurtured several new presidents during her time on the board, making sure they did everything that needed to be done to keep the PTA compliant. This is one of the most under-appreciated aspects of the PTA, but one of the most important. Monique's commitment to Webster and the PTA is an example for everyone, and we are glad to finally formally recognize her!

Livonia PTSA Council Executive Board 2019-2020

President, Kellie Dummer

1st VP, Robb Drzewicki

2nd VP, Debbie Pline

Treasurer, Donna Blauet

Recording Secretary, Amanda Gerstenbrand

Corresponding Secretary, Lynda Scheel

Advocacy & Legislative, OPEN

Bylaws & Policies & Procedures, Amanda Malenfant

Chamber Liaison, Kellie Dummer & Robb Drzewicki

Clothing Depot, Lynda Scheel

Diversity & Inclusion, Debbie Yates

ELVs, Amanda Walworth

Founders Day, Debbie Pline & Sara Bennett

Fundraising, OPEN

Health & Welfare, OPEN

Male Engagement, Robb Drzewicki

Masterworks, Liz Jarvis

Newsletter, Andrea Malenfant

PEP, Melissa Kachaturoff

Public Relations, Kellie Dummer & Robb Drzewicki

Reflections, Debbie Yates

STEM, Patty Novak & Nicole Dant

Website, Debbie Yates

YMAD, Nikki Watson & Debbie Pline

Cooper Upper Elementary School

Staff - Kim Casler

Helpful, Kind, Smart, and Funny member this year. Kim is a Custodian at Cooper and has been a huge help to our PTA planning these last couple years. She is always ready to help with anything we need whether it's big like setting up for an event or as small as needing a table for the front lobby. Parents appreciate her extra effort in everything she does. She is always willing to lend a hand to help. We wanted to honor her this year because sometimes those that help in lots of smaller ways aren't recognized very often.

Parent - Heather Poisson

Fun, Smart, Thoughtful, and Amazing member for over 3 years. Heather is a Mom to 6 children and started in the PTA over 8 years ago at Grant Elementary. She has spent countless hours volunteering her time and energy to make events, fundraising, and monthly meetings successful. This year she took on the fundraising project of chocolate sales and made it a huge success! We as a board appreciate her knowledge and experience and would struggle without her. She really deserves this award every year. We love her!



2020 PTA Reflections
Adriana Nadong, Cooper Upper Elementary
"A Tree and Its Fruit"

Johnson Upper Elementary School

Staff - Tom Traub

Tom joined the Johnson staff shortly after the start of the school year in 2018. He has been very supportive of the community and PTA since the day he joined the team. He has attended almost every event including the after-hours meetings and family nights. He is engaged with the entire community and we are very happy to have him with us. The PTA was thrilled to be able to select Mr. Traub as our Founder's day selection for Johnson staff this year.

Parent - Amy Johnson

Amy is one of our 5th grade parents at Johnson elementary. She is a wonderfully talented addition to our community that we are thrilled to be able to nominate. She has been extremely supportive of the community the entire year with each event and fundraiser. Amy was also the chair on our Cookies and Canvas night where parents, students and siblings were able to paint a holiday painting along with enjoying a treat. We are very happy to have Amy as part of our Johnson community.



Riley Upper Elementary School

Staff - Mary Smythe

Generous, Kind, Willing, and Respectful member for 2 years. Mary has a strong commitment to Riley and to the PTA. She is always willing to donate her time and help with anything she is asked of. She shows respect to everyone she comes in contact with. Her integrity shines as she always sees any project through from start to finish. She has helped make Founder's Day centerpieces in the past, donated items for our raffles and prizes for events and very giving of her time to help with projects. She has volunteered at events and helped design and create projects for PTA events. We are so thankful for her and all she provides to the PTA!

Parent - Catherine Miner

Dedicated, Caring, Compassionate, and Faithful member for 3 years. This year, Catherine has been the Reflections Chair, Holiday Shop Chair and the Birthday Bulletin Board Chair. In addition to working on the Bake Sale, Trunk or Treat, and Candy Bar fundraiser, Cathy has stepped up and taken the position of Recording Secretary on the Executive Board. Those of us who have had the pleasure to work with and know Cathy will tell you that her hard work, heart and compassion that she brings to school with her on a daily basis are always for the most important reason, the students!

Emerson Middle School

Staff - Mary Elizabeth Allison

Caring, Compassionate, Patient, and Creative member for 10 years. Fellow staff members describe Liz Allison as a guardian angel; always looking out for those around her. Students describe her as kind, compassionate, patient, empathetic, and an awesome math tutor. She is always looking for ways to help our students succeed; helping them in homework club, teaching them how to stay organized, implementing brain/body integration exercises, and even bringing in meals for students in need. We are so very lucky to have her as part of our Emerson family.

Parent - Melissa Boyce

Caring, Bighearted, Dedicated, and Creative member for 2 years. Melissa Boyce is 100% committed to Emerson. Track concessions, staff appreciate, school activities, and the 8th grade Cedar Point trip, among other events, have improved with her ideas and dedication. Melissa invests a lot of time looking for creative ways to fundraise where the students could still have fun and not be a burden to parents. Teachers know that if they need something, Melissa will take it to the board and do what she could to make it happen. Her positive, can-do attitude and seemingly endless energy is much appreciated by all those around her. Thank you for all you do Melissa Boyce -keep it up!

Student - Tyler Boyce

Kind, Friendly, Conscientious, and Helpful member for 2 years. This is Tyler's second year at Emerson – he exemplifies collaboration, commitment, respect, and integrity. Tyler is always willing to help with enthusiasm & a smile. In just a few short months, Tyler has helped the PTSA with Back-to-School sidewalk chalking, Bake Sale during conferences, Open House PTSA table, and more. He also offers his support of the PTSA without being asked. When student participation is scarce at the middle school level, Tyler shows us all just how important the student's role can be.

Frost Middle School

Staff - Heather Roosevelt

Collaborative, Thoughtful, Productive, and Committed member for a year. Heather stepped up as Teacher Liaison this year and has done an outstanding job supporting the PTSA. She put a lot of thought into ways to boost membership and involvement in the PTSA and came up with new ideas for recruiting. Heather has been a welcome presence at our meetings and through her detailed note-taking, timely communications with staff, and helpful suggestions demonstrates that she is very dedicated to the PTSA. Thank you, Heather, for making such a positive impact at Frost!

Parent - Nicole Galea

Enthusiastic, Determined, Committed, and Giving member this year. Nicole and her family are new to Frost this year but this didn't deter her from jumping in with both feet! Nicole headed our Bake Sale at this year's Craft Show. She did a phenomenal job! Nicole created a beautiful display, organized volunteers, and generated sales that topped last year's. Nicole's willingness to devote so much of her time and energy to helping the PTSA tells you exactly how amazing she is! We are truly blessed to welcome her to our school and are especially grateful for her support of the Frost PTSA.

Student - Alex Cyncewicz

Enthusiastic, Compassionate, Responsible, and Respectful member for 2 years. Alex is a tremendous asset to the Frost PTSA. As Student Council President, he works closely with the students to support the PTSA in many ways. Under his leadership, Student Council has been represented at every PTSA meeting and presents a detailed activities report. They also provide much needed support for PTSA events through projects and serving as volunteers. Alex was a huge help at the back to school staff luncheon and at this year's craft show. Alex is always eager to help out with his positive attitude and friendly smile. We are proud to recognize this natural young leader who represents his school and the PTSA values in such an outstanding way.

Holmes Middle School

Staff - Patrice Bushart

Reliable, Kind, Sincere, and Compassionate member for 10 years. Patrice welcomes everyone who visits the office with a bright smile and a warm greeting. She shows everyone the same degree of respect and takes the time to listen to others in a beautifully comforting way. Mrs. Bushart makes each person she works with feel like a priority, and recognizes that a part of her job is to serve and advocate for all children and families daily.

Parent - Komla Razook

Trustworthy, Reliable, Respectful, and Committed member for several years. Mrs. Razook has been an essential part of our unit – proving herself to be a committed and reliable member by making herself available to fulfill PTSA needs (i.e. ticket sales, fundraisers, and event vacancies). We are so lucky to count on her support!

Student - Kaleigh Frank

Thoughtful, Ambitious, Exceptional, and Humble member. Kaleigh is in a league of her own. She is committed to learning and helping to create an accepting, inviting, and inclusive environment for everyone. Kaleigh is humble, kind, and amazingly creative. She is thoughtful, insightful, and has the kind of intelligence that doesn't come from books, but from the heart.

Churchill High School

Staff - Lisa Wilson

Dedicated, Compassionate, Thoughtful, and a Sensitive member. Lisa Wilson is the Student Assistance Provider at Churchill High School. Lisa is not only an unbelievable resource for our students, but she also single-handedly created Churchill's grief and loss support group, a benevolence fund to help low-income students, a food pantry within the school, and she holds remembrance events near the holidays for students and staff who may be grieving. Lisa is also the driving force behind Churchill's annual Peace Day ceremony in which she organizes student groups and alumni to rededicate Churchill's Peace Garden and Peace Pole each September. Lisa volunteers at many All-School events, and she was on the team to help organize this year's Crush the Stigma event, where local companies came together to help put an end mental health stigma. Lisa goes above and beyond, and the CHS community is lucky to have her.

Parent - Kim Gardner

Reliable, Hard-Working, Dedicated, and Involved member for many years. Kim has been an active member and supporter of PTA from the time her children attended Jackson Center through their graduation and beyond. She continues to serve on the Board at Churchill two years after her youngest graduated, putting together and delivering monthly staff gifts, chairing staff appreciation, organizing administrative professionals' day, and generally being available for anything that needs to be done. She can always be counted on to make goodies for bake sales, dances, and other events. We don't know what we would do without her and all that she does for Churchill and PTA.

Student - Harish Jaisanker

Driven, Dedicated, Responsible, and Hard Working member for 2 years. Harish is in Churchill's MSC program, and is a Student Council PTSA representative. Harish is a dedicated Student Council member who not only attends nearly every PTSA meeting, but is also responsible for helping to plan and organize the many events that Churchill hosts throughout the year. Despite his heavy workload, Harish has maintains a perfect 4.0 GPA, and can always be counted on to help. In addition to his work with Student Council, Harish has also taken it upon himself to present topics to Churchill that bring awareness to other issues outside of the school. Recently, he created a list of recycling related to recycling that he organized to be read over the morning announcements, sponsored by the Greenhouse Club, in order to bring awareness to environmental issues. He continues to be an impressive leader and a loyal PTSA member at Churchill.

Franklin High School

Staff - Jennifer Esparza

Hard-Working, Dedicated, Fun, and Dependable member for several years. Mrs. Jennifer Esparza is an asset to Franklin High School as the director of student activities. The PTSA and Student Congress have collaborated on many activities benefitting our school and community such as Open Houses, school dances, teacher conferences, Fun Run and many more! She holds her students accountable in all they do and has set up a student PTSA committee getting more students involved in PTSA. She is committed to making and keeping Franklin the awesome school and community that it is! The Franklin High School PTSA thanks Mrs. Esparza for all she does to make our job easier and for partnering with us for many events.

Parent - Kellie Dummer

Dependable, Enthusiastic, Trustworthy, and Caring member for several years. Kellie Dummer is one of the most dedicated parents. She is always willing to help when and wherever she can! On top of her duties as Livonia PTSA Council president and the Franklin council liaison, she willingly chaired the Reflections program for Franklin when we were in need of a new chairperson. She is committed to making the PTSA the best it can be, not only at Franklin, but at all Livonia schools. She is dedicated to providing inclusive activities and events. She's always willing to share ideas and help a new executive board be successful! The Franklin High School PTSA thanks Kellie for all she has done for us and for being an awesome liaison and cheerleader for our unit!

Student - Madison Moore

Compassionate, Dedicated, Driven, and Mature member this year. Madison Moore's commitment to Franklin High School, its students, staff and community is vast. Madison is a very active four-year member of Student Congress, the past two years serving on the executive board. She has worked hundreds of hours over the last four years helping with everything from blood drives to parent teacher conferences. She helps Franklin to be an inclusive community by being part of the Unified Basketball team and working hard with the FTP Program. Madison regularly attends PTSA meetings and is a contributing member. On top of all the activities she does within Franklin and the community, Madison is an excellent student, maintaining her 4.23 GPA while taking four AP classes. She is also a member of NHS and Patriots Relate (helping acclimate freshman students to Franklin). The Franklin PTSA is proud to honor Madison Moore as our Class of 2020 student honoree.

Stevenson High School

Staff - Linda Devlin

Organized, Dependable, Professional, and Delightful member for 2 years. Linda has been such a blessing to the Stevenson PTSA over the past two years. In our unit, we often need information sent out via an E-blast or placed in the weekly newsletter. We are forever sending her communication to be disseminated everywhere and in a timely manner. Linda ALWAYS goes above and beyond to make sure we are all set and she does it with a smile! She is efficient, friendly, and respectful. It is a pleasure working alongside her. Every PTSA Unit needs a Linda Devlin in their lives! She exemplifies the values of PTSA-Congratulations, Linda!

Parent - Karen Bradford

Joyful, Omnipresent, Enthusiastic, and Dedicated member for several years. Karen began her PTA career at Jackson Center over 18 years ago. Since then, she has been involved with PTAs at Hoover, Webster, Riley, Holmes, and Stevenson, which clearly shows Karen's commitment. Karen constantly promotes PTA and often speaks at meetings regarding the advocacy role PTA plays in supporting students. When SHS was unable to get a person to chair the Reflections committee, Karen decided to take it upon herself to chair the committee, ensuring the program continued at Stevenson. Principals she has worked with commented that she has a warm, positive presence and always puts kids first. To encourage more student involvement with the PTSA, Karen invited members of the Student Senate to attend the monthly meetings, giving the PTSA the opportunity to hear from students and gave students the opportunity to learn about the PTSA's role. Karen has continued to encourage parents and staff to take active roles in the PTSA. Back in her days at Hoover, Karen could be heard saying, "There's no such thing as a PTA emergency." Her philosophy still holds true today. With Karen as leader, everything will get done. Thanks for your years of service to LPS students.

Student - Leah James

Dedicated, Passionate, and Understanding Leader. Leah has been a member for 2 years. She has the highest level of commitment to Stevenson High School in whatever activity she works with. Be it athletics, academics, or student leadership, Leah excels. Her quiet presence and strong integrity, play a large role in the respect she is granted by her peers and adults around her.



2020 PTA Reflections
Izzy Bartnikowski,
Frost Middle School
"Vision of Beauty"

2020 PTA Reflections
Anna Novak,
Churchill High School
"In a Pond..."



Important PTSA Council Dates for 2020

3/18 Executive Board Meeting | 6:00-6:30 p.m. | Stevenson High School

3/18 Workshop | 6:30-8:00 p.m. |

4/15 General Membership Meeting & Elections | 6:00-7:00 p.m. | BOE office

4/16 Youth Making A Difference Celebration | 6:00-8:30 p.m. | Churchill High School

5/20 Officer Training Workshop | 6:00-8:30 p.m. | Churchill High School

6/17 Executive Board Meeting | 6:00-7:00 p.m. | BOE office

6/18-20 National PTA Convention | Louisville, KY

7/15 2020 Audit Party | 6:00-8:00 p.m. | Board Room, BOE office (downstairs)

Council generally meets on the THIRD WEDNESDAY of the month.

PTSA Council suggests the following meeting schedule for units to minimize meeting/date conflicts:

First Week - Lower Elementary

Second Week - Upper Elementary

Third Week - Middle School

Fourth Week - High School

Livonia PTSA Past Council Presidents

2018-2020	Kellie Dummer
2016-2018	Joanne Hayes
2014-2016	Julie Thompson
2012-2014	Liz Jarvis
2010-2012	Heather Broos
2008-2010	Heidy Nance
2006-2008	Jerilyn Petersmark
2004-2006	Pat Larson
2002-2004	Judee Taormina
2000-2002	Lynda Scheel
1998-2000	Nancy Stramecki
1996-1998	Christine Walczyk
1994-1996	Joyce Galindo
1992-1994	Karen Holmes
1990-1992	Kathy Kalousek
1988-1990	Sue Thompson
1986-1988	Bev Wesner

Advocate ■ Communicate ■ Support