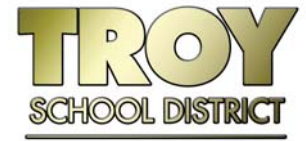


A newsletter for Troy School District residents • Winter 2010

Perspectives



Troy selected as one of six in U.S. for space station downlink

The Troy School District will be Michigan's first community – and one of only six in the nation for Expedition 22 - to host a live downlink this February with crew members aboard the International Space Station.

The downlink, tentatively scheduled for the morning of February 1 at Athens High School, is the centerpiece of a series of science-related activities that promote the principles of flight and space travel.

"This is a once in a lifetime event for our students and a great honor for our schools," said Science Curriculum Coordinator Jennifer Gottlieb. "The downlink gives us the unique opportunity to engage students in activities before and after the event that will create excitement for science and space travel."

Facilitated by Teaching From Space, a NASA Education office, the downlink allows the International Space Station (ISS) crew members to perform curriculum-based activities in space to demonstrate basic principles of science, math, engineering and geography and answer questions from students on Earth in real-time. More than 500 K-12 students will participate in the live downlink with ISS astronauts.



Students from Leonard Elementary study how weight impacts the force of gravity as part of their "Toys in Space" program. Participating students include: front row (l-r): Celine Vang and Emily Rush and back row (l-r): Richard Monblatt, Celine Taylor, and Joey Bugaj.

Please see page 3

Deep state school funding cuts impact Troy Schools

Troy Matters process allows district to address long-term financial issues facing schools

Facing more reductions in state aid, the Troy School District is continuing to focus its efforts on long-range changes that are necessary to address new

funding challenges.

The district initiated a year-long process called "Troy Matters" that created opportunities for residents to learn more about school funding and provide input into changes that will address severe school funding cuts.

Earlier this year, the State of Michigan reduced funding to the Troy School District by as much as \$6.5 million. A portion of the cuts - approximately \$1.5 million - has been postponed pending an analysis of the

Please see page 2

School funding challenges impact the entire Troy community

A new year typically brings new energy for setting goals and priorities. This year, we are asking all Troy residents to make one of their resolutions to have a greater understanding and involvement in the important financial issues that state cuts are having on our exemplary schools.

The story that accompanies this column speaks to our current situation. At the time of this writing, we are nearly at the half-way point of our school year. The Troy School District is facing an undetermined funding cut that will be at least \$5 million in revenue.

The school funding issue impacts everyone who is part of the community. Every resident in this community has made an investment in this school district. This investment has paid off, as our schools continue to provide exemplary services that make Troy a destination community with strong property values. Most importantly, however, this investment has made this community a place where our students have every opportunity to become leaders in our society.

We are working to maintain and enhance your investment as we address these crippling cuts in school funding. We need the entire Troy School District community to assist us to meet this funding challenge in a number of important ways:

- Become informed on the financial issues that are facing the school district.
- Advocate for the students in our schools. State lawmakers need to understand that they have the responsibility for

protecting our students. They have the ability to make funding priorities. Education needs to be that priority.

- Assist us in addressing these multi-million dollar reductions in school aid. Beginning this month, we will begin developing action plans to address these severe cuts and asking for input into these issues.

There are very few things that we control when it comes to funding. That issue lies with our elected lawmakers in Lansing, and we must continue to reinforce with them the importance this community places on our schools. The area that we do control is our ability to work together as a community as we face this crisis.

Please take the time necessary to visit our Web site to learn more about school funding and how it impacts your schools. This year looks to be one of the most financially challenging for us as a community. It is therefore critical that one of our 2010 resolutions is to look at how we can continue to support the students in our community. I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Dr. Barbara Fowler
Superintendent of Schools

Troy Matters

From page one

state funding picture in January.

The revenue reduction follows more than seven years of flat or reduced state funding to Michigan schools. More reductions in state aid are anticipated due to declining revenues and a loss of stimulus funding.

Since 2002, the Troy School District has made more than \$50 million in adjustments.

To address the recent set of cuts, more than \$1 million in adjustments are being made in the current school year.

The changes include across the board cuts in all areas of the budget, a 2.5 reduction in compensation for administrative and non-represented employees, concessions offered through a recent agreement with the Troy Educational Support Personnel Association, and the contracting of grounds services.

Since the fall, the district has sponsored informational meetings on school finance and held focus groups to determine funding priorities for future reductions.

Over the next few months, the district will use the feedback to develop adjustments. Information related to the recommendations and an opportunity for input will be posted on the Troy School District Web site: www.troy.k12.mi.us.

The Board of Education must adopt a balanced 2010-2011 budget prior to July 1, 2010.



Visit WWW.TROY.K12.MI.US

- √ School Finance 101 Presentation and Video
- √ Updates on Michigan school funding changes
- √ List of past adjustments since 2002
- √ Financial information related to TSD
 - √ Adopted Budgets
 - √ Check Registers
 - √ Past Audits

Troy students honored for AP achievements

More than 350 awards were earned by Troy students through the rigorous college-level Advanced Placement program.

The College Board, which administers the AP tests, has announced that 373 Troy students have been named AP Scholars, with 47 of those earning National AP Scholar designations.

AP courses, which are offered at both Troy and Athens high schools, give students the opportunity to earn credit or advanced standing at most of the nation's colleges and universities.

Students must successfully pass a test administered by the College Board in order to earn the college credit. Students earn grades on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest.

The Troy School District offers 19 AP courses at its high schools. Last year, 874 students took a total of 1,888 AP exams.



Athens High School juniors Carol Monis and Dan Catterall take part in a mock auction as part of their Advanced Placement Economics course. The auction demonstrates how pricing impacts the laws of supply and demand.

Troy selected to host downlink with NASA

From page one

The downlink will also be aired into classrooms across the district and will be streamed live on the NASA Web site. Approximately 15 to 20 Troy students will have the opportunity to ask direct questions of the ISS crew.

The day of the downlink, participating students will also explore science activities through a science fair in the Athens gym that features opportunities to explore careers in science with local engineers, a floor plan of the International Space Station, experiments in micro gravity, and presentations by Troy teachers who participated in the Weightless Flight of Discovery Program.

To further promote the event, interested community members will be invited to take part in the same activities experienced by students the evening of the downlink. The event will be held at Athens High School beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The International Space Station involves more than 15 nations. Between April 2009 and October 2010, more than 400 scientists will be involved in 165 investigations in human research, technology development, physical sciences, biological science, and Earth observation and education.

The NASA downlink represents a comprehensive educational experience for Troy students that will also include a number of projects prior to the event.



The entire Troy School District community is invited to take part in the NASA celebration at a community night at 6:30 p.m. at Athens High School following the downlink (tentatively scheduled for February 1).

More information related to the downlink and the community events is available on the Troy School District Web site: www.troy.k12.mi.us.

Troy honors national merit semifinalists

More than 40 Troy School District seniors are named among the top one percent in the United States

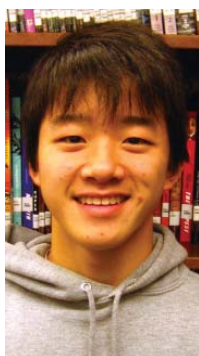
The Troy School District has honored more than 40 students named National Merit semi-finalists.

More than 1.5 million students in over 21,000 high schools entered the 2009 National Merit Program by taking the

Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which serves as an initial screen of program entrants.

The nationwide pool of semifinalists, which represents less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest scoring entrants in each state.

These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,200 National Merit® Scholarships, worth more than \$35 million, that will be offered next spring.



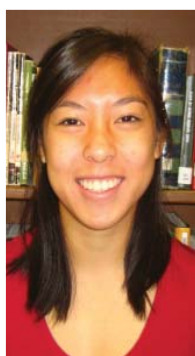
Anthony Cao



Eileen Chang



Min Jun Choi



Kathleen Chou



Alison Christiansen



Lucy Du



Maya Faison



David Guo



Amirtha Hariharan



Christopher Harrity



Clifford He



Janet Hu



Liyuan Huang



Farhan Hussain



Lauren Janness



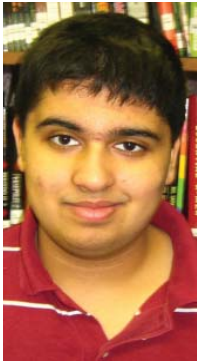
Yanting Jiang



Namhun Kim



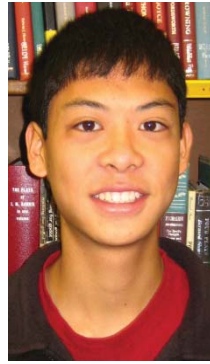
Srivarsha Koripella



Aniket
Kotnis



Arthi
Kumar



Jarvis
Li



Yuping
Li



Peiming
Lin



Tianyang
Lin



Nai Rong
Liu



Swapna
Musunur



Charles
Qin



Shuaib
Raza



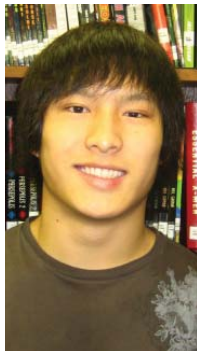
Maryam
Seifeldin



Jatin
Sharma



Vishal
Sornay



Jiaqi
Song



Kaupriya
Soni



Divya
Subramanian



Kevin
Tang



Abigail
Wang



Emily
Wang



Emily
Wang



Christine
Wu



Allen
Xu



Jingqian
Yuan



Sheng
Zhou

Troy graduate named Rhodes Scholar

A 2005 Troy High School graduate is among thirty-two Americans chosen as a 2010 Rhodes Scholar.

Jean Junior will begin studying comparative social policy in 2010 at Oxford in England through the Rhodes Scholar program.

The Rhodes Scholar program is “the oldest and best known award for international study, and arguably the most famous academic award available to American college graduates,” according to Elliot F. Gerson, American

Secretary of the Rhodes Trust.

Prior to graduating from Troy High School, Junior was a national merit semifinalist who was active in Troy High theatre and band. She played a solo on the clarinet when the Troy High band performed at Carnegie Hall.

After THS, Junior graduated summa cum laude from Harvard College in 2009 with a concentration in sociology. She is currently a Fulbright Scholar in South Africa conducting research in an HIV/AIDS program in KwaZulu-Natal.



Jean Junior

Musicians for All-State Band

Smith and Boulan Park Middle Schools are proud to announce that seven of their band students were accepted to perform in the Michigan All-State Middle School Honors Band Competition.

Only 100 of more than 1,000 student musicians are accepted for the All-State Band.

Congratulations to Ashley Kim, Naya Moreno and Katie Pinson of Smith Middle School and Marissa Casano, Jon Harrity, Noelle Harrity and Arnold Zhou of Boulan Park.

Lego Teams capture state title

Two Troy School District teams have earned state titles in the First Lego Logo tournament.

FLL is an academic sport designed to get students interested in science and technology.

The Robo Rockets, of Boulan Park, earned first place at a tournament held in White Lake. The team consists of sixth graders Brian Lee and Richard Javarjian, seventh graders Mihir Patel and Ryan McIntyre and eighth graders Saad Shaik and Srinivas Simhan.

Team coaches are Rahamath and Shaguftha Shaik.

The Robo Hippies, a combined lego robotics team from Wattles and Baker Middle School, won the overall state champion title at the Flint Tournament this past weekend.

The team consists of: Allison Bartoy, Macy Jackson, Mara Quinn, Morgan Montgomery and Anita Vellaichamy of Baker Middle School, and Prathik Hosalli and Brandon Austreng of Wattles Elementary.

The Robo Hippies coach is Jeff Jackson.

National poster winner announced

Smith Middle School 8th grader Annabel Lemke earned first place in the 2009 National Chemistry Week poster contest for the 6th-8th grade.

The contest, which was open to middle school students across the country and sponsored by the American Chemistry society, asked students to create posters around the theme “Chemistry - It’s Elemental.”

Lemke received \$100 as a prize for her hard work.



Students who will perform in the All State Band include: (l-r, back row) Arnold Zhou, Marissa Casano, Jon Harrity, Noelle Harrity (f) Katie Pinson, Naya Moreno and Ashley Kim.



Troy Foundation supports innovative classroom programs

More than 60 classrooms are able to provide increased opportunities for students, thanks to the Troy Foundation for Education Excellence.

The TFEE recently announced its fall innovation classroom grants that support programs in nearly every TSD school. The grants are being used to fund everything from an elementary academic club to a high school program that allows students to perform with DSO conductor Leonard Slatkin.

The Foundation is comprised of parents, community members and business representatives who volunteer to raise funds that go directly to Troy School District students and classroom.

For more information on the Foundation, please visit its Web site at: <http://www.troyfoundation.org>.



Morse students Jia Yu Liu and Sandro Bibo Rosetta practice using the Rosetta Stone software purchased by the Troy Foundation for Educational Excellence.

Troy Train Show promises an afternoon of family fun



The Troy Train Show - one of Michigan's largest model railroad shows - will be held on Sunday, January 17, from 10 to 3 p.m. at Athens High School, 4333 John R.

More than 375 vendors and exhibits will be featured at the event, along with a host of family activities including six working

model train displays, a coloring contest, door prizes, silent auction of autographed engines, and a large raffle contest.

As an extra special event, a full length movie of *Thomas the Tank Engine* will be shown at 12:15 in the auditorium for no additional cost.

Cost for the afternoon is \$3, or free for children 12 years of age and under. All proceeds will go to fund programs supported by the Troy Foundation for Educational Excellence, a non-profit organization created by friends and supporters of the Troy School District to enhance and enrich the educational opportunities offered to students.

"This show is the most family-friendly event in the area," said Frank Lams, event organizer.

For more information, visit: <http://www.troytrainshow.org>.


*As an extra special event, a full length movie of **Thomas the Tank Engine** will be shown at 12:15 in the auditorium for no additional cost.*

Stay connected with Troy School District updates

The Troy School District offers multiple ways for community residents to constantly receive news updates.


Information is updated daily at the following sites:

- **LinkedIn** - Search within "groups" category for the Troy School District site.
- **RSS Feeds** - Paste the following site in your news feeder for feeds:
<http://www.troy.k12.mi.us/tsdnews/rss/TSD.xml>.
- **Twitter** - Sign up for Twitter updates at:
www.twitter.com/troyschools.
- **E-Mail Updates** - Troy residents can sign up for the same weekly updates sent to parents:
<http://www.troy.k12.mi.us/tsdnews/alerts.htm>.
- **Troy Web site** - The Troy School District posts new content daily and links to issues facing our schools at:
<http://www.troy.k12.mi.us>.



Twitter Updates
Twitter.com/troyschools

RSS News Feeds
<http://www.troy.k12.mi.us/tsdnews/rss/TSD.xml>



LinkedIn

www.linkedin.com
Search Groups for
"Troy School District"

Troy's physical education programs stay at the top of the class

The Troy School District's physical education program has made the grade - again!

The district's K-12 program has been recertified as a "Level 8" physical education program by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports.

While a handful of other districts have achieved the Level 8 status in the Exemplary Physical Education Program (EPEC), Troy is the only district to have completed each level of the process.

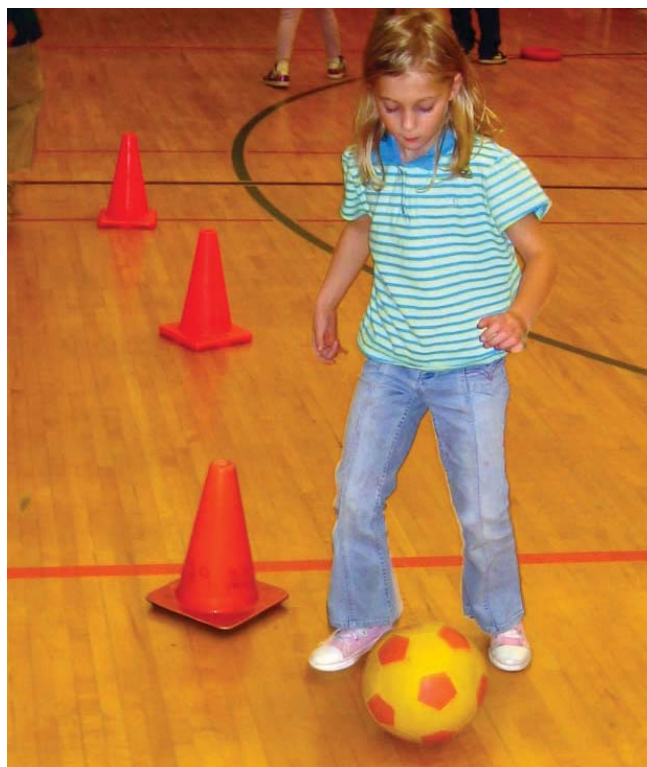
"This achievement demonstrates that we have a comprehensive and consistent physical education program," said Costello Elementary physical education teacher Keith Dempsey. "Our physical education teachers are extremely proud of that."

Each level requires districts to not only create consistent skill targets throughout the K-12 program, but to also successfully implement an evaluation process that demonstrates each student attains the goals.

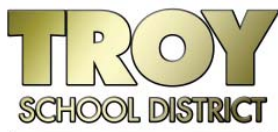
For instance, Costello Elementary students recently developed fine motor skills by moving a soccer ball through a series of cones. Students have to make sure they have complete control as they move the ball forward and kick it into a makeshift goal at the end of the course.

The students then use technology - a video camera with playback capabilities - to watch how they handled the obstacle course and look for areas of improvement.

Dempsey said every Troy school district physical education teacher was involved in the achievement of the EPEC award.



Costello Elementary second grader Teresa Kujawa polishes her fine motor skills by moving a soccer ball through a series of cones in her physical education course.



The Troy School District
4400 Livernois
Troy, MI 48098
(248) 823-4000
[http:// www.troy.k12.mi.us](http://www.troy.k12.mi.us)

Board of Education
Wendy Underwood, President
Todd Miletti, Vice President
Nancy Philippart, Secretary
Ida Edmunds, Trustee
Paula Fleming, Trustee
Gary Hauff, Trustee
Carol Pochodylo, Trustee