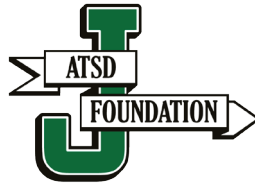


Adams Township School District Foundation, Inc.

Fall 2015

*A Heritage of
Achievement*



*Providing
opportunities for
future generations*

Check out our website at: www.adams.k12.mi.us



Superintendent's Report

As I write this letter to the Adams Township community, I realize how blessed I am to be part of both this school district and Foundation. The generosity and commitment of our Foundation are unequalled in providing students the opportunity to explore worthwhile career pathways. As the finishing touches of the trades center are being accomplished by the students themselves, I marvel at the modest request of Gary Miller, JHS trades instructor. "Would the Foundation help build a pole barn for the students to have a trades class at Jeffers High School?" Mr. Miller's vision resonated with the members of the Foundation and community and today, we have a fully functioning and equipped trades center. I applaud the hard work by everyone who took part in this worthwhile project and made it a reality for the students in the Adams Township School District.

As the focus of this project nears its end, the Foundation has begun the process of further expanding opportunities within the trade-based curriculum. We have done the preliminary work of establishing a skill-based culinary course within Jeffers High School. This program will utilize products grown in our greenhouse, guest experts from our community and the use of equipment within the culinary field. Students may use this course as a stepping-stone to further explore interest in this field or gain skills they will need in everyday life.

As we continue to expand and provide students with skill-based opportunities, we ask that you continue to support the Foundation in this endeavor. Your support will reinforce the direction and mission of both the Foundation and the

*Main: Vocational Education Building
Inset: Trades Program Students Finishing the
Building's Interior*

Adams Township School District. On behalf of the district, I thank you for your generosity and the support we have received from both the community and Foundation as we educate and prepare students within our district.

*Sincerely,
Tim Keteri*

Principal's Report

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the foundation for all it has done for the students and staff of JHS. I have been a witness to the profound changes that have occurred here with regard to the opportunities afforded the students and staff in the areas of visual arts, music and vocational offerings. Our curriculum offerings are second to none and the Foundations' support for post secondary opportunities has motivated students to strive for excellence in all of their academic endeavors. In a time where state budget constraints are hampering the ability of local school districts to provide a timely and relevant education, the Adams Township Foundation has made it possible for the staff to provide a broad range of classes and activities. Without the Foundation and communities generous financial support our district would not be able to provide these opportunities.

*Sincerely,
Michael Benda*



South Range Elementary School

While teaching those basic reading, writing and math skills that are familiar with most for an elementary school, we continue to work hard at incorporating those extra engaging activities that bring learning to life for students.

Coming into this school year, we have updated our math series to the newest level that includes the latest standards with digital activities. Teachers are working together to create memorable lessons for students. We've had 22 apple trees planted that students are taking care of. A hoop house is in place and ready to begin growing fruits and vegetables. We continue to collaborate with Michigan Tech University, bringing students in to deliver Family Science Night activities and outdoor activities during the day. We will be attending a program at the Rosza Center, The Science of Pirates, and will once again participate in the annual Science Fair.

This Spring we will continue with our all school reading initiative of the One School One Book program. We are grateful to the Foundation for their continued support in helping us to build a community of life-long readers. We are also currently in the works in preparing to bring students back for the Hei Suomi program. In collaboration with Finlandia University, two students from the University of Lapland in Finland will spend the month of April introducing the culture, language and customs of Finland to our third grades students.



We are off to another exciting year at South Range Elementary ~ Where our students always come first!

*Sincerely,
Kim Harris*

Presidents Report

The first ten months of 2015 have been exciting and moving at a pace nobody could have ever predicted. In April of 2015, bids were received for the new Vocational Trades Building. Construction of the building began on May 18th and on August 28, DP Construction completed their contractual portion of the work. They did an outstanding job on the building. Trades students are currently insulating the walls and installing steel wall panels in the building trades section of the building. Cosmetology equipment has been ordered, and classes are scheduled to begin in the second semester of this school year.

Looking into the future, we hope to be offering culinary classes in the 2016-17 school year. Remodeling plans for the old home economics classroom have been developed and we are currently soliciting donations to help with the remodeling costs.

As I begin my term as president of the ATSDF, I would be remiss if I did not thank Dr. Frank Rugani for his time and the effort he put into making this organization what it is today. Frank has elevated this Foundation to a level nobody could have predicted just four short years ago. He has left me with big shoes to try and fill. Although I may not fill them as he did, rest assured, I will do my very best for the Foundation.

Remember the Adams Township School District Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 Non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible under the guidelines of the law. When you find yourself doing your estate planning, please remember our Foundation.

*Sincerely,
Marty Iskra, President*

Jeffers High 2015 Graduation

Depicted in the above photograph are Paul Karppinen, Class of 1961, and his grandson Ian Michael King. Paul was the Commencement Speaker at the 2015 JHS Graduation. Paul's inspiring message to the seniors was very timely as they began the next phase of their lives. He used examples from his life's experiences!

Mr. Karppinen's name is familiar around the Jeffers High School. He is a major benefactor of the J.H.S. and the ATSD Foundation. Recalling his days at Jeffers reminds him of lessons learned. His willingness to support us assures us of continued success in preparing students for the future. It is our hope that Paul Karppinen's example will inspire other Alumni and Friends of our school to support the ATSD Foundation.

Frank Rugani



Supported Programs

Our generous scholarship program and the newly developed trades program are funded by donations to the ATSD Foundation. In addition, the ATSDF also funds students that participate in music, art, History Day competitions and HOSA competitions. Funds are now being accumulated to begin a Culinary Arts Program in September of 2016.

These programs have been made possible, and can be expanded, with financial help from alumni and friends. Our Foundation asks for and appreciates your assistance.

Fundraiser Dinner

The Second Annual Adams Township School District Foundation Dinner/Auction was held on May 2, 2015. The event was held in the "Old Assembly Room" of the Jeffers High School. The success of this now annual event was evident by the fact that over 175 tickets were sold; 50 more than the previous year. Marty Iskra and Lorraine Tomasi co-chaired the Dinner/Auction, with Executive Chef Mark Pattillo and his staff preparing the meal.



2nd Annual Fundraiser Dinner in the 'Old Assembly Room'

A live auction and raffle followed the dinner. Auction items were donated by James Manderfield, Mark Pattillo, Martin and Sandra Johnson, Ron and Sue Antila, David Stimac and the JHS Industrial Arts teacher Gary Miller. Ron and Sue Antila also donated a Flat Screen TV, which was raffled off, netting over \$1,000 for the Trades Program. Net profits for the evening exceeded \$7,500.

Plans for next year's event are already underway. The tentative date for next year's Dinner and Auction has been set for May 7, 2016.

Marty Iskra, President

Visit the Foundation Link on the ATSD Website:

www.adams.k12.mi.us

Here you will be able to check our progress by looking at previous Newsletters and current news releases. Donations to the ATSD Foundation can also be made from this site.

Lake Perrault Place-Based Education Day

On Friday, September 18, the entire student body and teaching staff from Jeffers High School had the opportunity to spend the day at Lake Perrault, learning from experts in various fields including forest management, ornithology, and ecology. For our first session, the group of students that I spent the day with headed into the woods with a forester to conduct an assessment of the health and diversity of trees in a sample area. Students first measured out a one-tenth acre circle, and then began measuring tree diameters and identifying the species of trees found in our sample site. We discussed timber quality and the value of not only having harvestable trees in an area, but also different species of trees to add to the biodiversity of an area. Other groups tested the water quality at various sites in and near the lake, spent time working on the trail, and studied the different types of birds and small mammals present near the lake.



While the focus of our efforts at Lake Perrault often revolves around different science topics, there were also different non-science related activities taking place at the lake. A group of Ms. Ruohonen's students used their time to do creative writing, and Mr. Samuel Kilpela's 7th grade Engineering Concepts and Design class got to test their cardboard boats out on the lake. Much to our surprise, most of these homemade boats held not just one, but two students and the boats were fully sea-worthy, as they demonstrated in their cardboard boat races in the lake.

As this event becomes a biannual tradition, we are always looking for more input as to what types of activities and projects students can be involved in at our place-based education site.

Jonathan Kilpela



Letter of Appreciation

In May 2011, I received the Helen Harju Miller Scholarship. On May 3, 2015, I graduated from Finlandia University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. Every semester I met with Greg Seppanen, of Superior National Bank, to assure that I was meeting the academic requirements to continue to receive the awarded money. Each semester when I left the bank with a portion of the awarded money, I felt the same relief and gratefulness I did when I was announced the recipient of the scholarship. Nursing school, by its very nature, brings out moments where you feel unsure and incompetent. There were times when I had to remind myself why I wanted to be a nurse and what qualities I had that would make me a great nurse. In addition to those, I would think about the bravery and drive Helen encountered to become a nurse. She provided me not only with a lightened financial burden, but with inspiration and belief in myself as well. In the October 2012 newsletter, Dr. Brad Uren said, "She loved to tell her life story and wanted it to serve as an inspiration to others. She always told people that no matter where they came from that they could accomplish big things. That was her advice to the world and her gift to generations of Jeffers students to come." Her financial support and inspiration is truly a gift. No words can express how extremely grateful I am!

Sincerely,
Brittany Puska

Dear Dr. Frank and Nancy Ruger

Thank you for the scholarship. With your generosity I will be able to pursue my dream. With the award I will be able to purchase tools that I will always have with me.

I'm not the "normal teen" I do what I feel is right. I am a man of his word. I've worked many jobs, from being a farmer to working in a restaurant. My love for the trades has always been the same. I grew up around trucks and heavy equipment so I decided to be a diesel and heavy equipment technician. I will be attending Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in the fall. After college I plan on opening my own shop. Thank you again. I truly do appreciate it.

Sincerely
Randy Arens



Randy Arens with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Joe Arens



History Day Program

During my eighth grade year at Jeffers High School I had the opportunity to create a History Day Project. I decided to make my project about Mr. and Mrs. Jeffers, the founders of our school. I presented my project at the MTU Regional History Day Competition and was one of the three finalists chosen to represent our projects at the State History Day Competition in Lansing. With the financial help of the Adams Township School District Foundation a group of Jeffers eighth graders went down to Lansing to present our projects. Although no one from our school was chosen to go on to the national level my project on Mr. and Mrs. Jeffers won an award for the Best Topic in Michigan History and continued to receive much interest. I was invited to present my project at the Copper Range Historical Society annual dinner and had my project displayed at the Copper Range Historical Society Museum in South Range, the Carnegie Museum and the Dee Stadium in Houghton. I would like to thank the Adams Township School District Foundation, Jeffers High School and Mrs. Ruohonen for allowing me to have this opportunity.

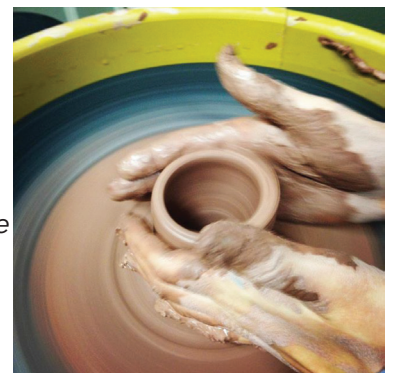
Claire Komarzec



*JHS Music Dept. 'Rock Concert'
Mrs. Emily Raffaelli, Music Director*



*Please help to support the all the
Jeffers School Programs!*



Vocational Center Open House

On September 25, 2015, the Adams Township School District Foundation sponsored an Open House showcasing the new Jeffers High School Vocational Center. Begun in May, the facility was ready for the September start of the 2015/2016 school year.

Martin Iskra, Foundation President, opened the program by introducing Father John Martignon of Holy Family Church in South Range, who blessed the new facility. Iskra went on to explain the cost and funding of the building. After purchase of needed equipment, the ATSD Foundation will have provided nearly \$550,000 to the project. He stated that funding all came from private donations and it is paid for completely.

Mr. Gary Miller, Industrial Arts teacher at the JHS, went over the development of the Trades Program. Only a dream of his some 5 years ago, the Vocational Center far surpassed his hopes and dreams. Every worthwhile program needs a dreamer like our Mr. Miller! Our school is so fortunate to have this man, who is appreciated and respected by the students.

Frank Rugani, past president of the Foundation, recalled some of the history of the organization. Back in 2003, having an ATSD Foundation was only a dream of then Superintendent Dan Sternhagen and Principal Jan Maierle. Over the past 12 years, the Foundation provided nearly \$750,000 in scholarships to JHS students, nearly \$550,000 to the Trades program, contributed generously to the Music and Arts Programs in grades K-12 and helped to defray expenses for students participating in History Day and HOSA competitions on state and national levels. Over 200 donors have contributed to the ATSD Foundation over the past 12 years making this funding possible.

Superintendent Tim Keteri thanked the Foundation Board for all that has been done to financially support the Adams Township School District. On the horizon, he cited a Cosmetology Program, Culinary Arts Program and possibly an Automotive Program to supplement the Framing, Plumbing, Electrical, Masonry and Welding Programs already in place in the Vocational Education Program at the JHS. Superintendent Keteri stated that it is most gratifying to know all this has been made possible through private donations!

Please remember the ATSD Foundation when making Charitable Donations. We depend on these funds to support our Adams Township School District students.

Frank C. Rugani

Marty Iskra

Fr. John Martignon

Gary Miller

Frank Rugani

Tim Keteri



2015 ATSD Foundation Roster

Martin Iskra, President
Frank Rugani, Past-President
John Baima, Treasurer
Tim Keteri, Executive Secretary
Ron Antila, Trustee,
Ray Bosley, Jr., Trustee
Delano Harma, Member Emeritus

Bette Heikkila, Trustee
Chris Iskra, Trustee
Martin Johnson, Trustee
Mary Lehto, Trustee
Robert Marcheschi, Trustee
Darren Niemi, ATSD Representative
Marti Rashleigh, Trustee

Nancy Rugani, Trustee
Jay Ruohonen, Trustee
Steve Sabatini, Trustee
Greg Seppanen, Trustee
Lorraine Tomasi, Trustee