

# **Board Report November 2018:**

## **Early Childhood**

- The Birth to 3, Early On team participated in Mc Educators night on November 23rd. They were able to display art work of their students and families engage and promote our early intervention work, all while raising money to support special program, family or student needs. They raised a little over \$200 for the evening.
- Winterfest will be held on Tuesday, December 4th at Greenfield School. This event is put on for the students and families of our Early Childhood Programs and is a collaborative event between the HCISD Early Childhood Department, the HCISD Great Start Collaborative, and Community Action Agency. We have many community organizations who come forward every year to host an activity booth for the event. Young children and their families of our program come to enjoy crafts, fun activities, games, photo opportunities, dinner and social time with each other.
- With the receipt of the 54d and Early On Grant, we are preparing to add a new position to our Early Childhood team: Early Interventionist. The Early Interventionist will focus on identifying, evaluating and supporting families and children who qualify for Early On services. We have developed a draft of the job posting and intend on asking for board approval of this posting at the December board meeting.
- The Early Childhood Department is happy to present the potential new hire, Tamara (Tami) Trego. Tami comes to us from the Indianapolis area and is excited to be relocating to her parent's home town. Tami has over 3 years of experience working as an Early Childhood Special Education teacher, as well as additional years of experience working with young children.
- Preschool Inclusion Teacher, Paula Haynes and Stephanie Hines, has the opportunity to attend the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) training on November 7 & 8th. They are excited to implement and share their information and ideas they received from this training. They are confident it will help support many of our nonverbal students to gain functional communication skills.

## **Speech**

New position posted. Moves from the beginning of the year reduced the available speech pathologist by .5. The speech team has diligently worked to offset the loss of the half-person. The caseloads continue to be at or over maximum capacity even with those efforts. Therefore, to better manage caseloads it was decided to hire another speech pathologist.

## **Greenfield**

Emily Buelow, Teacher of the YAP Program, has been busy with her class on their classroom business called Yappy Creations. The students are making decorative coffee cups, picture frames and other decorative items. SXI and the SCI classrooms are also beginning their Lanyard Business. These items will be available for sale in the near future. If you are interested in finding out more about these projects or ordering, you can reach out to Cindy Magda: [cynthia.magda@hillsdale-isd.org](mailto:cynthia.magda@hillsdale-isd.org) and/or Emily Buelow: [emily.buelow@hillsdale-isd.org](mailto:emily.buelow@hillsdale-isd.org) On October 31st, Greenfield SXI and SCI Programs made homemade pumpkin pies and shared them with families. Students and parents got to enjoy coffee, punch, pie, cupcakes, cookies and other yummy items. The students and staff did a great job with making this event special.



Upcoming Events at Greenfield:

Friday, November 16th: Thanksgiving Dinner with YAP, SXI and SCI Programs

Tuesday, December 11th 4:30-5:30: Greenfield Agency Night: Life After 26

Thursday, December 20th 12:00-3:00: Greenfield Holiday Party

## **Michigan Special Education Determination Report**

You have received a packet about the Needs Assistance determination for special education in Michigan. We are the only State in the mainland to receive this determination. There is no denying that we need to address the very real concerns about Michigan special education student underperforming on the national and state tests as well as our low graduation rates.