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PANTHER PRESS

Parchment School District Newsletter

parchmentschools.org **May 2026**



PLUS:

More News

Stories

Online

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS! *Our mission is to ensure that all students are challenged to excel in their individual social and intellectual growth, while achieving those essential academic and interpersonal skills necessary to become a successful, contributing member of society.*

Superintendent's Letter

Dear Panther Community,

The year has flown by, and I am proud of the steady progress we've made together across our district. While there is always more work ahead, the growth we've seen reflects a shared commitment to continuous improvement—and we will stay the course through these final weeks and beyond.

This month, we will celebrate the hard work and achievements of so many students through Senior Honors Night, KAMSC and PHS graduation ceremonies, end-of-year awards events, and the recognition of hundreds of students earning a place on our honor rolls. Each of these milestones is a testament to our students' dedication, resilience, and perseverance.

In our buildings, we are seeing encouraging signs of positive momentum. Attendance has improved thanks to intentional efforts by both staff and families. We have also seen an increase in positive student choices, leading to a meaningful reduction in misbehavior. At the same time, our focus on high-quality instruction remains strong, with staff engaging in instructional rounds across buildings to support continuous improvement. While there is still room to grow, we are clearly moving in the right direction.

Our partnerships with families continue to strengthen through increased communication and collaboration, which are essential to student success. The 2026–2027 school year will mark the full transition to PowerSchool as our official student information system. Between now and then, we will complete final preparations and provide clear guidance for families on setting up parent portal accounts, linking students, and completing required forms online. This transition will make it easier to access important information and stay connected.

We will also roll out the School Status communication platform districtwide, creating a more consistent and streamlined messaging experience for students and families across all buildings. These improvements reflect our ongoing commitment to strengthening communication and engagement. In addition, we will continue expanding opportunities for meaningful connection through updated parent-teacher conference structures, volunteer opportunities, and community events.

Behind the scenes, it takes an entire team to make a school district successful. In Parchment, we are fortunate to have more than 300 dedicated employees—each playing a vital role in providing the best possible educational experience for our students. Our Operations Team, in particular, keeps our district running each day. This winter brought nearly daily HVAC challenges, yet thanks to their quick thinking and dedication, our schools remained open and operational.

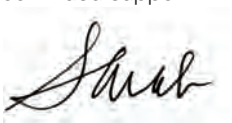
We are also making important strides in improving systems and infrastructure. Through thoughtful use of grants and local resources, our teams have pursued innovative funding solutions. Our district was one of 27 in Michigan to receive a Clean Bus Energy Grant, allowing us to replace 3 of our older diesel buses with cleaner, more environmentally friendly options. This investment supports healthier air quality for our students and community while helping us address transportation needs despite limited funding. Additionally, Safety and Mental Health grant funds have been used to upgrade failing alarm systems in three of our buildings—an important step in maintaining safe learning environments.

Looking ahead, we are actively developing a long-term plan for facility maintenance and improvements. I would like to thank our Steering Committee for their thoughtful work in shaping recommendations for a potential bond proposal. This proposal, expected to move forward for Board consideration in May and to the Department of Treasury in June, includes an innovative approach to improving efficiency, enhancing student programming, and sustaining our facilities for years to come. If approved, it would allow for the consolidation of schools and programs while addressing the needs presented by our oldest facilities.

The progress we've made this year would not be possible without the support, dedication, and partnership of our entire Panther community. Together, we are building a stronger future for our students—one grounded in growth, opportunity, and pride.

Thank you for your continued support.

With appreciation,



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parchmentschools.org

Parchment Early Learning Center
AND SCHOOL AGE CHILDCARE

Now Enrolling: Parchment Early Learning Center Preschool



It's time to sign up for preschool at Parchment Early Learning Center! Families with 3- and 4-year-old children are invited to register now for the 2026–2027 school year.

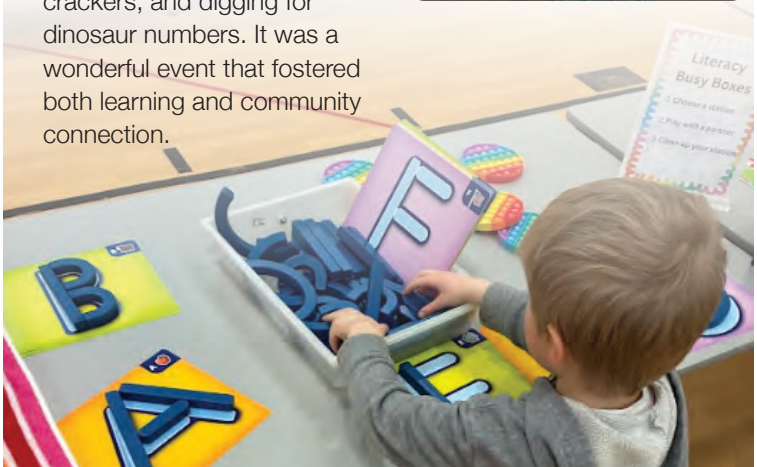
Our program offers a welcoming, supportive environment where children can learn, grow, and build early skills for success. Be sure to complete your registration soon, as space is limited.

For more information or to get started, visit our website: https://www.parchmentschools.org/o/elc/page/our-program, contact the center, or stop by—we look forward to welcoming your family!

PELC Math and Literacy Night



Families from PELC came together in the Northwood Gym for a successful evening of math and literacy-based preschool activities. The event showcased engaging stations that included graphing M&Ms, fishing for letters, creating edible dominoes on graham crackers, and digging for dinosaur numbers. It was a wonderful event that fostered both learning and community connection.



New Student Information System Announcement

Parchment School District will be transitioning to a new student information system, PowerSchool, starting with the 2026–2027 school year. Much of the behind-the-scenes setup and data preparation has already been completed, and we are now focused on final checks to ensure a smooth start next fall. PowerSchool will give families an easier way to view schedules, grades, and attendance, and to complete required forms online in one place.

No action is needed from families at this time. As we get closer to the 2026–2027 school year, we will send detailed instructions on how to create your parent account, link your student(s), and access the available tools. Thank you for your continued support as we work to improve how you stay informed and connected to your student's education.

New District/School Communication Platform Announcement

To improve consistency and streamline communication across our district, we will be transitioning all schools to the SchoolStatus platform for the 2026–27 school year. SchoolStatus is a communication platform similar to SchoolMessenger, which we currently use for school closings and district announcements, but it also offers additional features that make it a more powerful and useful tool. SchoolStatus is already in use at our middle school, where it has proven to be an effective, user-friendly tool for connecting with families.

Over the coming weeks, we will begin preparing staff and families for this transition to ensure a smooth rollout. Our goal is to provide a single, reliable platform that makes it easier to stay informed and engaged with your child's school. More details and support resources will be shared as we get closer to implementation.



NORTHWOOD

Annie's Big Nature Lesson

Northwood's second graders spent a week participating in Annie's Big Nature Lesson at the Kalamazoo Nature Center! Students explored the nature trails, birdwatched and identified trees, learned how maple sugar is made, and explored how plants and animals depend on each other for survival. This memorable week allowed learning to happen outside, using a space that is close to Parchment to better understand the environment around them.





STEM Class

Mr. Wight and Mrs. B teamed up to bring the forest to the Science Lab this month in honor of our Wild Robot reading theme. All K-3 elementary students learned about forest ecology by investigating Michigan trees, animals and the food chains in forest habitats by exploring biofacts - collected or preserved natural specimens - that allow scientists to study nature back in the lab. We got Heads-on, Hands-on and Hearts-on this topic by training our minds with real examples of our natural neighbors. Then, we put it all together by creating forest food chains to see how we are all connected by energy. Students had a blast and were engaged with some amazing examples of the different forest friends we can meet when we explore our amazing Michigan landscape!





CENTRAL

One Community One Book

To celebrate our One Community One Book family literacy program, Mrs. Good's Young 5's and Mrs. Wydick's 3rd graders enjoyed creating their own Wild Robots out of pretzels and marshmallows!





Kalamazoo Nature Center

Central second graders had an incredible week at the Kalamazoo Nature Center during their week-long study trip. Students explored the outdoors for hours each day—hiking trails and learning about water, insects, birds, and trees—all while incorporating daily reading, writing, and math.

One of their favorite moments was the log-rolling activity, which gave them the opportunity to discover a variety of fascinating insects and salamanders. It was a trip they will remember for years to come.









CENTRAL & NORTHWOOD

March is Reading Month







To celebrate March is Reading Month, Central and Northwood teamed up to participate in a One School, One Book featuring *The Wild Robot*. Every student received their own copy of the book, along with a reading calendar and a variety of engaging activities designed for families to enjoy together. The calendar guided nightly reading at home, while teachers followed a similar schedule, reading the story aloud in their classrooms.

Leading up to the big reveal, both schools built excitement with a "hype week," filled with daily clues and fun activities to spark curiosity and anticipation. The staff even participated in a Family Feud game show event to reveal the book title. Throughout the month, students and their families immersed themselves in the story by researching animal facts, playing trivia, going on hikes, illustrating scenes, writing about their favorite characters, and more. As a grand finale to March is Reading Month, students and families created dioramas showcasing their favorite scenes from the book.



We were also excited to partner with Biggby Coffee, who hosted Northwood students and families and even created a special Wild Robot-themed drink to help celebrate the experience in a fun and memorable way. Central classes also enjoyed watching *The Wild Robot* together to celebrate completing the story.

Included are photos from throughout the month, along with some of the incredible dioramas created by our students and their families. Thank you to all the families who participated and helped make reading a fun and meaningful part of your nightly routine!

NORTH

Kalamazoo Game Experience

In March, North tried something new to tie together March is Reading Month and Battle of the Books. We focused on 8 books in each class and students read as many as they could. Students earned XP points by completing books and filling in their Minecraft Board for their house. Teachers participated too by reading books too and with kids. Then we had the Kalamazoo Game Experience come to present the questions in different game formats and the students competed in Houses. The last round was teachers vs. students. We are very thankful to the Kalamazoo Game Experience for creating this such a fun adventure.



Global Amazing Shake

Congratulations to our Top 4 Parchment Finalists, Adebola Adeniji, Melia Gersey, Noah Lenartowicz, and Sophia Woodley, who represented our district at the 2026 Global Amazing Shake! The Global Amazing Shake was hosted by the Ron Clark Academy (RCA) in Atlanta, Georgia on March 28th. Through a variety of real-world challenges, they demonstrated exceptional communication skills, leadership, and professionalism. Their hard work and preparation were evident every step of the way, and they made our entire community proud.





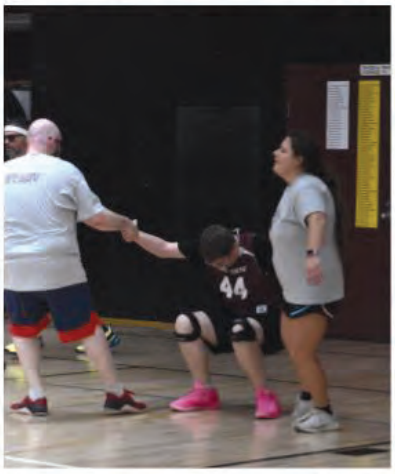
School Spirit

On Friday, March 20th, the Middle School hosted an exciting day of school spirit, featuring both a House Chant and Cheer Competition and a Staff vs. Students Basketball Game. The energy was high as Tharros claimed victory in the House competition, while the staff secured a thrilling win on the basketball court in the final minutes. To cap off the day, hundreds of students and staff came together for a school-wide Cupid Shuffle. It was an amazing day at the Middle School, with many more to come!







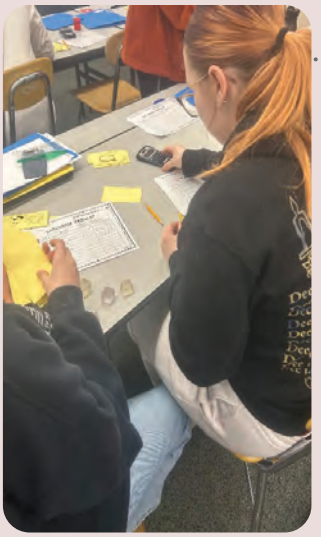
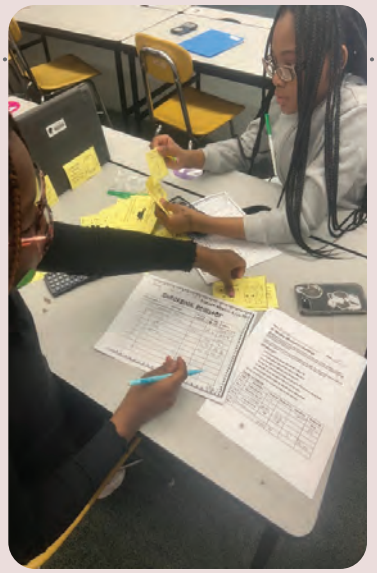







Finance Class

Middle school students in Mrs. Boehm's Intro to Finance class are gaining practical, real-life money skills. They are currently learning to balance a checkbook register using realistic expense scenarios, which has unexpectedly become a class favorite. Students enjoy the hands-on challenge and are beginning to understand what it takes to manage personal finances.


2026 Parchment High School Snowcoming



King and Queen

KALEE VANDENBERG and **LUCAS PLATTE**

Kalee plans to attend Spring Arbor University and participate in cheerleading.

Lucas plans to pursue a career in Aerospace Engineering.



Crown Bearers

JADE and **JA'MEER GILMORE**

Parents: Katrice and James Gilmore

Both siblings are 2nd graders at Central Elementary.

MASC Student Council State Conference

February 22-23, 2026

Amway Grand and DeVos Center

The Student Council received the "Exceptional Service Project Award" for the Annual Veteran Appreciation Breakfast they hosted in November for our local Veterans.





KRESA Excellence in Education

Parchment High School is proud to announce that two of our senior students, Shay Janssen and Eliana Wachowski, received a KRESA Excellence in Education award for outstanding academic achievement. They were recognized at the KRESA Excellence in Education award ceremony held at the Fetzer Center, at Western Michigan University on April 15, 2026.

This award recognizes students who register in the top 2% academically in their graduating class. A $1500 academic scholarship accompanies this award.

Congratulations to Shay Janssen and Eliana Wachowski for this achievement!



Photo (left to right): *Assistant High School Principal Beau Loncharte, Shay Janssen, Eliana Wachowski*

HIGH SCHOOL
Scholarship Recipients



CADEN LEE is the recipient of the **Parchment Schools Foundation Careers Scholarship** and the **Jim Strehlow Scholarship**. Caden will be attending Kalamazoo Valley Community College this fall to complete his degree in welding.

ELLI WACHOWSKI is the recipient of the **Parchment Schools Foundation Academic Scholarship**. Elli will be attending Grand Valley State University in the fall, majoring in exercise science.





KALEE VANDENBERG is the recipient of the **Kishpaugh Memorial Scholarship**. Kalee will be attending Spring Arbor University this fall to major in social work and continue her athletic career on the cheer team.

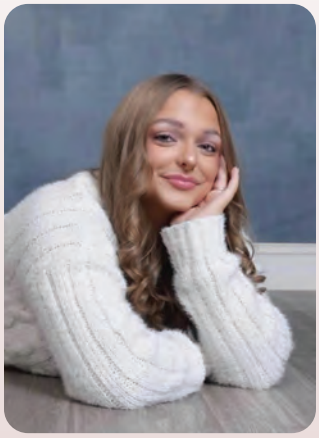
MIA HALE is a recipient of the **Gibson/Faupel Memorial Scholarship**. Mia will be attending Grand Valley State University this fall to major in diagnostic medical sonography.





DOMINICK LINDSAY is a recipient of the **Gibson/ Faupel Memorial Scholarship**. Dominick will either be attending Michigan State University or Albion College this fall to double major in psychology and computer science.

NORA TERRILL is a recipient of the **Parchment Education Association Scholarship**. Nora plans to attend Western Michigan University to pursue a degree in elementary education.





WYATT COUSINS is a recipient of the **Parchment Education Association Scholarship**. Wyatt will be attending Western Michigan University this fall to major in chemistry, with the goal of becoming a chemistry teacher.

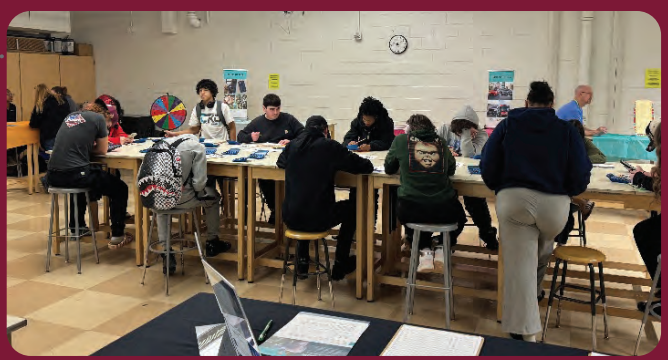
SHAY JANSSEN is the recipient of the **Carole Birch Memorial Compassion Scholarship**. Shay will be attending the University of Michigan majoring in neuroscience/pre-med.



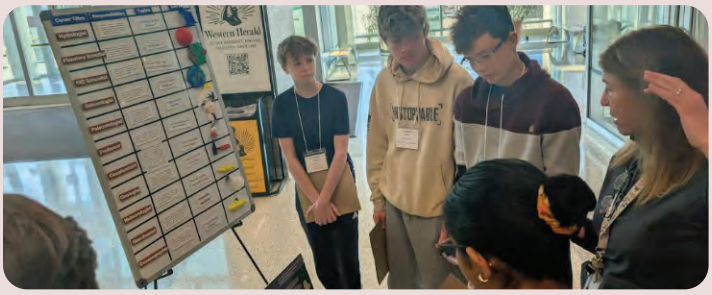
Career Exploration

Mr. Gardner's Career Exploration Reality Fair was a huge success.

Students learned about Careers and pay stubs. Then how they could budget what money they had for the month, and what exactly they could afford with chosen careers.



Honors Biology - Mrs. Lugar-McManus/Teacher





On April 22nd (Earth Day), students attended a "Careers in a Changing Climate" workshop at WMU. Climate change affects every career - from how we design homes and grow food to how we manage health care, business, and technology. Students were able to engage with dozens of professionals from architects to nurses and engineers to farmers. The goal was to see how they are adapting their work to a changing climate.

ROBOTICS

The high school robotics team in action at their competition on March 5-7th at Battle Creek Lakeview High School.







WOOD SHOP

Check out what's coming out of the high school wood shop! Students have been building some fantastic projects, including hat racks, chairs, benches, and lots of cutting boards





High School Band – Disney Trip



The Parchment High School Band traveled to Orlando, Florida over spring break, where they had the opportunity to visit Universal Studios, Hollywood Studios, and Magic Kingdom. One of the highlights of the trip was participating in a Soundtrack Session, where students worked with a professional Disney recording musician and recorded music to accompany a movie clip. They performed "Trashin' the Camp" from Tarzan and a medley from Frozen, gaining valuable insight into the role musicians play in film and the recording process.



In addition, the band performed a concert at Disney Springs, a popular shopping and entertainment destination. It was especially meaningful to see so many families in attendance, along with a few Parchment staff members who came out to support the group.

Overall, the trip was an incredible experience filled with meaningful learning opportunities and lasting memories. The band is already looking forward to returning to Orlando in 2030!

PEAO Secretary of the Year



We are pleased to announce that Laura Nieboer, Building Secretary at Parchment Central Elementary, has been chosen as our PEAO Secretary of the Year! From day one, Laura has created a welcoming and positive environment for families and staff. Her ability to build relationships with parents and guardians helps them to understand the community that their child learns and grows in each school day bringing them a feeling of comfort and confidence. Laura serves the highest number of elementary students in the district with grace and composure. When asked what she enjoys most about her career she responded, "I began working at Central as a substitute lunch aide while my children attended school here, and somehow, I worked my way into a secretary role. While I don't get to interact with students in the same manner in this position, working with them has always been my favorite part of the job no matter what position I held. I also enjoy the variety and fast pace of my work, no two days are ever the same."

This award is so well deserved, and our District is incredibly fortunate to have Laura as part of our team. Congratulations and thank you, Laura, for your dedication to your building staff, students and their families and your community! Laura will be recognized for this award at the Board of Education meeting on May 18th.

PEA Teacher of the Year



Blakeley Kiser, 1st grade teacher at Parchment Central Elementary, has been named by her peers as the Parchment Education Association Teacher of the Year for 2026.

Blakeley is an exceptional educator and leader who consistently demonstrates a deep commitment to her students and colleagues. She creates a safe, structured, and welcoming classroom where students feel valued, supported, and excited to learn. Blakeley understands the importance of first grade as a foundation for future success and works tirelessly to support her students' academic, social, and emotional growth.

Beyond her classroom, Blakeley is a strong advocate for both students and staff. She has served for many years as a building representative and has actively participated in multiple leadership committees within our local association. Colleagues regularly turn to Blakeley for guidance, encouragement, and support, and her positive attitude and dedication help strengthen the entire Central Elementary community.

Blakeley's compassion, leadership, and commitment to the Parchment community make her truly deserving of this honor. Please join us in congratulating Blakeley on being named our 2026 Teacher of the Year.

Parchment Community Library News

MAY through JULY 2026

Unless otherwise specified, all programs are offered for free and all supplies are provided. You may register in person, online at www.parchmentlibrary.org, or by calling the library at (269) 343-7747 for programs that request or require registration.

kidsCREATE (ages 4-10)
Make a fun craft to take home! Always available in the Children's Corner.

Storytime (ages 3-5)
Wednesday & Thursdays through May 14, 10:00 am
Designed for children aged 3 to 5, but all children age 5 and under are welcome to attend with a parent/guardian.

Mother's Day Gift DIY (ages 10-14)
Friday, May 8, 4:00 pm
Create a gift for the person you think of as mom complete with a special message! Registration is requested.

Parchment Book Group (ages 18+)
Mondays, May 11, June 8, July 13, 6:00 pm
Check the Library website for featured books.

Vinyasa Yoga (ages 18+)
Tuesday, May 12; Wednesday, June 10, 5:15 pm
An hour of flowing yoga.

Chair Yoga (ages 18+)
Saturdays, May 16, June 20, July 18, 11:00 am
30 minutes of low-impact, supported yoga.

Pizza and Perspectives presents Indie Lens Pop-Up: The Grocery List Show (adults and teens ages 15+)
Monday, May 18, 6:00 pm
Enjoy pizza, popcorn, and international treats while we watch The Grocery List Show. Take a trip with Top Chef contender Chrissy Camba to five bustling international grocery stores in America and the multicultural communities they serve. Share your thoughts during the discussion following the film.

Mystery Book Club (ages 18+)
Tuesdays, May 19, June 16, July 21, 6:30 pm
Check the Library website for featured books.

Snack Around the World: Taste Challenge (ages 10-14)
Friday, May 22, 4:00 pm
Let your taste buds globe trot as we guess the flavors and origins of some sweet, spicy, and savory snacks. Registration is requested.

Closed for Memorial Day Weekend
Saturday, May 23–Monday, May 25

Unearth A Story Summer Reading Kickoff (kids, tweens, teens, and adults)
Saturday, June 6, 10:00 am–12:00 pm
Enjoy fun activities and sign up for summer reading!

Adopt-A-Dino (ages 3-10)
Begins Monday, June 8.

Storytime in the Park (ages 0-5)
Wednesdays,
June 10–July 29, 10:30 am
Designed for children aged 3 to 5, but all children are welcome to attend with a parent/guardian.

Tween Game Night: Fox in the Forest (ages 10-14)
Thursday, June 11, 4:00 pm
Band together with fellow adventurers to navigate the trickiest forest path and win the game. Snacks provided! Registration is requested.

Digging Up Your Family Story (adults, teens, tweens, and kids ages 8+)
Saturday, June 13, 10:30 am
Genealogy for beginners led by members of the Kalamazoo Valley Genealogical Society. Families are especially encouraged to attend together.

Read Alouds (1st – 3rd grade)
Mondays, June 15, June 29, July 13, July 27, 1:00 pm
Stories and crafts for older kids!

America 250 Craft Night (adults and teens ages 15+)
Monday, June 15, 6:00 pm
Make some fun patriotic crafts to celebrate America's Semiquincentennial!

Dig In: Paint-A-Paver (ages 10-14)
Tuesday, June 16, 4:00-6:00 pm
Decorate pavers with your own unique touch to create a new footpath at the library! Pizza provided. Registration is requested.

OLLI at WMU Senior Readers Theater (adults, teens, tweens, kids)
Wednesday, June 17, 2:00 pm
Senior Readers Theater members will perform short plays.

Art Sparks (1st – 3rd grade)
Thursdays, June 18, June 25, July 16, July 23, 10:30 am
Enjoy a mini Art History lesson about a famous artist and then create your own piece of art!

LEGO Club (open to all kids; children 5 and under must be accompanied by an adult)
Mondays, June 22 and July 10, 10:30 am
We provide the LEGOS, you provide the imagination!

F.A.R.M. Tween Book Club (ages 10-14)
Monday, June 22, 4:00 pm

Enjoy a themed activity and discussion about this month's book, Beyond the Bright Sea by Lauren Wolk. Register and pick up your free book (to keep)!

Fan Frenzy (ages 10-14)
Tuesday, June 23; Friday, July 17; Tuesday, August 4, 5:00 pm
Do you have a book, character, anime, sports team, video game, music group, etc. that you can't stop talking about? Share your excitement, make stuff, and have fun based on your favorite fandom. Food will be provided. Registration is requested.

Dads & Donuts (ages 2-8)
Saturday, June 27, 10:30 am
A storytime designed with dads in mind. Donuts included!

Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary (kids, tweens, teens, and adults; children 5 and under must attend with an adult)
Tuesday, June 30, 2:00 pm
Live alligator presentation!

Closed for Independence Day
Friday, July 3 and Saturday, July 4

Bubbleman aka Ron Loyd (kids, tweens, teens, and adults; children 5 and under must attend with an adult)
Monday, July 6, 2:00 pm
Ron Loyd will perform incredible tricks with bubbles!

Sharing the Spirit of America (adults, teens, tweens, kids)
Wednesday, July 8, 6:00 pm
Join us at the Parchment Veterans Memorial by City Hall for a nationwide outdoor reading of the Declaration of Independence to commemorate America's Semiquincentennial.

Tween Game Night: Jackbox (ages 10-14)
Thursday, July 9, 4:00 pm
Jackbox features multiple mini-games that allow players to play along from their mobile device, so bring your phone and prepare to have fun testing your trivia prowess, artistic talent, or design skills. No mobile device? No problem! We'll play them out of the screen as well. Snacks provided. Registration is requested.

Friends of the Library Book Sale
Saturday, July 11, 9 am-2 pm
Find bargains at the Friends of the Library book sale, held in the lower level of the library during the Kindleberger Festival. Early Bird admission is available 8:00-9:00 am for a small fee.

Library Closed for Kindleberger Festival
Saturday, July 11
No library services will be available during the book sale.

Exca-Vacation Dig (ages 10-14)
Tuesday, July 14, 4:00 pm
Let your inner archaeologist get their hands dirty in a dig to locate dinosaur bones, excavate them, and reassemble them into your favorite dinosaur's complete skeleton. Registration is requested.

Open Roads Bike Repair Workshop (kids, tweens, teens, adults)
Monday, July 20, 4:00-6:00 pm
Open Roads will be outside at the library to help with bike maintenance.

Digging Deeper into Your Family Story (adults, teens, tweens, and kids ages 8+)
Saturday, July 25, 10:30 am
Genealogy techniques from members of the Kalamazoo Valley Genealogical Society for people who have already started working on their family stories. Families are especially encouraged to attend together.

F.A.R.M. Tween Book Club (ages 10-14)
Monday, July 27, 4:00 pm
Enjoy a themed activity and discussion about this month's book, Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett. Register and pick up your free book (to keep)!

Unearth a Story Painting Event (adults and teens ages 15+)
Wednesday, July 29, 6:00 pm
Maryanne Ruesch will lead us in painting an acrylic canvas design for summer reading.

Parchment School District
520 North Orient Street
Parchment, MI 49004

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ECRWSS
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Alumni Update by Dave Person

Catherine Stuckey, class of '92



Catherine Stuckey's varied interests of international relations, writing and teaching English as a second language have taken the 1992 Parchment High School graduate to Japan, Spain and Germany, which she has called home for most of the last 27 years.

Currently living in Konstanz, Germany, near the border with Switzerland, Stuckey designs job-specific business English and presentation-skills training for her clients at Autodesk, a multinational software production and services corporation.

She also designs and leads interactive virtual sessions on presentation structures and persuasive speaking, and coaches non-native speakers on presentation delivery, slide design and American business communication norms for Autodesk.

In addition, she is developing a website to assist with effective communication across cultures. The website is for people in German-speaking countries.

"Americans can use it as well for culture," she says.

Stuckey began teaching English and American business culture for corporate clients such as BASF, John Deere and Siemens in Ludwigshafen and Mannheim, Germany, in 2001.

After high school, she attended Alma College, graduating in 1996 with a degree in international relations and a minor in Spanish, a language focus nurtured by Ruth Moser, her Spanish teacher at Parchment, she says.

While at Alma, Stuckey had the opportunity to participate in a Tandem University for International Study program in Madrid, Spain.

After graduation, she was selected to participate for a year in the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme, teaching English in schools in Tokyo and working with teachers there to design lesson plans to help students with their English speaking and listening skills.

Stuckey says there were 60,000 applicants for the JET program, but only 3,000 — including her — were accepted to participate.

After her year in Japan, she returned to the States, earning her master's degree in 1998 in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from the University of Tennessee.

She points out, as an aside, that she was at Tennessee when Peyton Manning, quarterback of the school's football team and later in the NFL, was a senior there.

In 1999, she moved to Germany, even though she didn't know the language.

"My first experience with German was from a pretzel vendor," she says.

The vendor taught her how to order a pretzel in German, and wouldn't sell it to her until she could do it on her own.

Now she communicates well in both Spanish and German.

Stuckey, 51, who is divorced, took time away from her work from 2011 to 2024, living in Barcelona, Spain, where she raised her son, Logan Kempf, who is now 19 and a university student studying finance and law.

"That allowed me to once again experience Spanish culture and to understand the cultural differences, not only with the United States, but also with Germany," and during that time, "I became the 'accidental' English teacher of my friends," she wrote in her vita.

Read the full story at parchmentschools.org