

**Contact: Kristin Tank, MAISD Public Information Officer at 231-767-7263**  
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**Monday, May 18, 2009 9:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. 8<sup>th</sup> Graders Rehabilitate Ottawa County Park (Repeated on Thursday, May 21, 2009)**

- Who:** 280 Fruitport Middle School Students from the 8th grade
- What:** Students will be removing garlic mustard plants from Pigeon Creek. They will also map where the garlic mustard is located in the park so that park employees can return to further address these areas. Melanie Good from the Stewardship Network and Nature Conservancy will talk with students about native and nonnative species. Good will help students learn how to identify invasive species and talk about correct management techniques. Peggy Weick from the Ottawa Conservation District will help students build brush bundle habitats as well.
- Why:** This is important work for the Ottawa County Parks and Rec because they have needed to spend increasing amounts of man hours addressing invasive species over the last few years. This environmental stewardship project is a culminating project for Fruitport Middle School as part of their involvement in the West Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative (WMGLSI). The WMGLSI connects schools with their communities to create opportunities for the learner that are meaningful for students and have a lasting impact for communities. Community-based learning is important because the students learn content while studying local issues that they can get excited about.
- Where:** Pigeon Creek is located in Northern Ottawa County near the Ottawa County Parks and Rec at 12220 Fillmore St, West Olive, MI 49460
- Interview:** Ottawa County Parks and Rec at 616-738-4810  
Melissa Maxson, GLSI Place Based Educator at the MAISD at 231-767-7336  
Christy Prins, Fruitport Middle School Teacher at 231-865-3128x3048

**Tuesday, May 19, 2009 9:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**  
**& Wednesday, May 20, 2009 8<sup>th</sup> Graders Remove Plants, Build Habitats, Plant Trees**

- Who:** 280 Fruitport Middle School Students from the 8th grade
- What:** The students will work at Hemlock Crossings removing garlic mustard (an invasive species), building brush habitats for ground dwelling habitats, and rehabilitating the forest habitat by planting tree seedlings in areas of the parks where red pines have recently been removed. They will also map where the garlic mustard is located in the park so that park employees can return to further address these areas. Chip Francke from Ottawa Parks and Rec will discuss the history of the park, the importance of the work, the reason behind tree removal/land management, and provide information about invasive species. Peggy Weick from the Ottawa Conservation District will help students build brush bundle habitats.
- Why:** This is important work for the Ottawa County Parks and Rec because they have needed to spend increasing amounts of man hours addressing invasive species over the last few years. This environmental stewardship project is a culminating project for Fruitport Middle School as part of their involvement in the West Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative (WMGLSI). The WMGLSI connects schools with their communities to create opportunities for the learner that are meaningful for students and have a lasting impact for communities. Community-based learning is important because the students learn content while studying local issues that they can get excited about.
- Where:** Hemlock Crossings Park in in Port Sheldon Township just west of US 31 on West Olive Road.  
If traveling northbound on US 31 from Holland, follow signs from Port Sheldon Street.  
If traveling southbound on US 31 from Grand Haven, follow signs from West Olive Road.

Interview: Ottawa County Parks and Rec at 616-738-4810  
Melissa Maxson, GLSI Place Based Educator at the MAISD at 231-767-7336  
Rachel Kent, Fruitport Middle School Teacher at 231-865-3128x3048

**Wednesday, May 20, 2009                      9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.                      Amusement Park Physics**

Who: 800 middle school students & 200 adults from throughout Michigan  
What: Science experiments; hands-on learning  
Where: Michigan's Adventure Cedar Fair an L.P. Park, 4750 Whitehall Road, Muskegon  
Why: To allow students a real-world opportunity to apply their knowledge to solve math/physics problems  
Interview: June Au, MAISD Math Education Consultant at (231) 767-7326

**Thursday, May 21, 2009                      9:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.                      8<sup>th</sup> Graders Rehabilitate Ottawa County Park**

Who: 280 Fruitport Middle School Students from the 8th grade  
What: Students will be removing garlic mustard plants from Pigeon Creek. They will also map where the garlic mustard is located in the park so that park employees can return to further address these areas. Melanie Good from the Stewardship Network and Nature Conservancy will talk with students about native and nonnative species. Good will help students learn how to identify invasive species and talk about correct management techniques. Peggy Weick from the Ottawa Conservation District will help students build brush bundle habitats as well.  
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Interview: Ottawa County Parks and Rec at 616-738-4810  
Melissa Maxson, GLSI Place Based Educator at the MAISD at 231-767-7336  
Christy Prins, Fruitport Middle School Teacher at 231-865-3128x3048

**Saturday, May 30, 2009                      10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.                      Students Show Off GREEN Home**

Who: Advanced Construction Trades students from the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center (MACTC)  
What: Open house for a home built by MACTC students. This is the first time Career Tech Center students have utilized LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) specifications to build a home. The new program focuses on teaching the proper skills and practices for environmentally friendly building. Learn more about LEED construction at the Open House  
Where: 2557 Chestnut Trail, Muskegon, MI 49442  
Interview: Brian Peets, MACTC Construction Trades Instructor at (231) 767-7300

**Thursday, June 4, 2009                      6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.                      Habitat Home Open House**

Who: Construction Trades students at the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center  
What: Students will be on site to answer questions about the nearing completion of the seventeenth home built in cooperation with Muskegon County Habitat for Humanity.  
Where: 1926 Valley St., Muskegon, MI 49442  
Interview: Holly Wilson, MACTC Construction Trades Instructor at (231) 722-4879

**Tuesday, June 9, 2009                      6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.                      Wesley School Prom**

Who: Current Wesley students and alumni and their families  
Wesley School serves students from all districts in Muskegon County who have moderate to severe cognitive and/or physical impairments and have autistic spectrum disorders.

What: A prom complete with professional decorations to reflect the “Depths of Forever” theme, dinner served by Target Stores staff, music, and the crowning of the class king and queen

Where: Wesley School, 915 E. Wesley, Muskegon, MI 49442

Why: This is a special time for Wesley students to reunite with each other and celebrate the next graduating class.

Interview: Sue Ochs, Wesley School Principal at (231) 767-7301

**Thursday, June 11, 2009                      1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.                      Wesley School Graduation**

Who: Wesley School serves students from all districts in Muskegon County who have moderate to severe cognitive and/or physical impairments and have autistic spectrum disorders.

What: An emotional graduation ceremony, complete with film of each graduate, marks the completion of formal schooling for 10 students who have reached (or are about to reach) the age of 26 years.

Where: Wesley School, 915 E. Wesley, Muskegon

Why: This is a special time for Wesley students and their families to reflect on their lives, sorrows, and triumphs. There is not a dry eye in the house.

Interview: Sue Ochs, Wesley School Principal at (231) 767-7301

**Monday – Thursday, June 15-18                      Summer Fun for Middle School  
and June 22 - 25, 2009                      8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.                      Students at Career Tech Center  
AND 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Who: Sixth, seventh & eighth grade students from throughout West Michigan and Muskegon Area Career Tech Center staff

What: Hands-on classes in 16 different areas are offered to 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at the high tech Muskegon Area Career Tech Center. Current Career Tech Center staff will teach a variety of classes including: Auto Body, Auto Service, Commercial Art, Bright Beginnings, Short Circuit, Green-Thumb Club, Got Ink?, Fire & Ice, Metal Morphosis, Sports Marketing, Crime Scene Investigation, Culinary Arts, Taking Care of Business, Welding, Count Me In!, and Building for Beginners.

Where: Muskegon Area Career Tech Center, 200 Harvey Street, Muskegon, MI 49442  
Muskegon Community College, 221 S. Quarterline Road, Muskegon, 49442

Interview: Mike Carpenter, Muskegon Area Career Tech Center Principal at (231) 767-3601

**Monday, June 22, 2009                      6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.                      Town Hall Meeting with Lawmakers**

Who: Representative Joel Sheltrown and other legislators, parents, students, business leaders, other members of the public

What: Town Hall Meeting to allow members of the public to express their opinions about House Bill 4410 which would add an option to high school graduation requirements to allow students to focus on vocational, technical and career-preparation classes.

Where: Muskegon Area Intermediate School District, 630 Harvey Street, Muskegon MI 49442

Interview: Dr. Susan Meston, MAISD Superintendent at (231) 767-7201

**Monday – Thursday, July 13-16                      Program for Gifted Students  
& July 20-23, 2009                      9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.                      AND 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Who: 400 advanced and accelerated first through sixth grade students; Teachers

What: **WINGS** is a summer program for 1st – 6th grade students who are ready to go beyond the introductory level. Classes promote in-depth explorations of core curriculum and are limited in size to encourage maximum student participation.

Where: Muskegon Community College, 221 S. Quarterline Road, Muskegon, 49442

Why: **WINGS** is co-sponsored by the MAISD and MCC. It provides advanced learning opportunities.

Interview: Rochelle Barr Sartorius, MAISD Arts & Select Projects Specialist at 231-767-7267    # # #