

PRESS RELEASE

July 16, 2009

Contact: Kristin Tank, Public Information Officer, MAISD, (231) 767-7263
Jim Kauppila, Assistive Technology Consultant, MAISD, (231) 767-7280

Parents to learn how talking computers can help children read and write

MUSKEGON, MI: Parents of third through twelfth grade children who struggle to read and write will have a hands-on introduction to talking computer software that can help. A free workshop called *Supporting Students with Reading & Writing Difficulties* will be offered at the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District (MAISD) at 630 Harvey Street in Muskegon on **Thursday, September 24, 2009**, and **Tuesday, September 29, 2009**, from **6:00 – 8:30 p.m.** Parents can choose to attend either of these sessions. Additional workshops will be offered in October and November as well.

The evening will provide parents and their children with a fun and interactive tour of a *Windows*-based software called *Premier Accessibility Suite*. It is already available in all schools located in Muskegon County and is also available at no cost for home use. Parents will learn how their children might benefit from computer software that contains a talking word processor, text reader, talking dictionary, and audio file (MP3) conversion program.

Jim Kauppila, Assistive Technology Consultant, will explain just how the system can work for children in both the classroom and at home. Kauppila has been helping students through the use of technology for the past 25 years. Organizers say he is known for his lively presentations, sense of humor, friendliness and vast knowledge base. The program is being provided by the MAISD Special Education Parent Advisory Council.

Space is limited. Parents must register in advance for the workshop by calling (231) 767-7246.

###