Warren Consolidated Schools

Creating Dynamic Futures through Student Achievement, High Expectations, and Strong Relationships

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RECEIVED
CHIEF OF POLICE
9-30-14

September 25, 2014

Dear Chief Gary Mayer:

My name is Dr. Pat Cavanaugh, and I am the principal of Susick Elementary in Troy. The purpose of this letter is to share with you my highest appreciation for the work of one of your Troy Police Officers.

School Resource Officer Gail Jasak has been an incredible asset to the Susick school community. Over the past year, it has been a pleasure to have her involved in so many activities at our school. Specifically, since the time she began her position as the School Resource Officer, she has been extremely visible at our school, and has offered her support for our crisis drills. Her insight and expertise for school crisis awareness and prevention has been noticed by not only me, but also the Warren Consolidated School Crisis Coordinator.

In addition to her involvement for our crisis response, she also has be an integral part of our school-wide focus on reading. Specifically, in March, she was a guest reader to nearly ten of our classrooms as part of "March is Reading" month. I received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback from my teachers on how wonderful it was for Gail to visit their classrooms.

Furthermore, I am extremely thankful to Gail for her support in partnering with Susick for the Summer Bookmobile program. Gail's enthusiasm for education and her outstanding communication skills with the students and parents played a major role in the success of the program. Our Bookmobile had six visits throughout the summer to four different locations, providing free books to over 150 of our students. In addition to the free books that were given, Gail provided relevant bullying and safety materials for our students and families.

In my five years as the Susick principal, the partnership with Gail and the Troy Police Department is at the top of list as not only my favorite, but the most impactful for our school community. I want to thank you very much for your support of the School Resource Officer position within your department, and I applaud you for selecting Gail to serve in this capacity.

For more information on the efforts and dedication of Gail, attached is an article from that was featured in the Troy Times, Warren Weekly, and Sterling Heights Sentry. Also, enclosed is a short video produced by our school district which sent to all Warren Consolidated Schools employees and highlighted on our district website and television station.

POLICE OFFICER GAIL JASAK:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE AND ALL THE EXTRA YOU DO AT OUR SCHOOLS. YOUR PROFESSIONALISM IS APPRECIATED.

Sincerely,

Pat Cavanaugh, Ph.D.
Principal
586-698-4374
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International District Accreditation
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Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

National Exemplary Schools

July 30, 2014

Susick is 'booked' for the summer

By Maria Allard
C & G Staff Writer

Photo by Deb Jacques
On July 22 at Milverton Park in Troy, Susick Elementary School media specialist Denise Shepitka places all the books out for the children to see. Pictured with her are Akhilan Ganeshkumar, 7, and entering second grade, left; Michael LaPrise, 7, also going into second grade, center; and his 5-year-old brother William LaPrise, a kindergarten student this fall.

TROY — Susick Elementary School students in Warren Consolidated Schools are curling up with good books this summer.

For the third straight year, students have been invited to participate in the Susick Bookmobile. School staff and the Troy Police Department have teamed up for the bookmobile, which periodically makes runs through the community to drop off free books.

The bookmobile is actually a Troy Police Department van driven by school resource police officer Gail Jasak. When the vehicle stops at its various destinations, Jasak, Susick Principal Pat Cavanaugh and the school's media specialist, Denise Shepitka, step out and set up a display of

brand-new books. Students can then pick out two titles, which Shepitka had ordered through Scholastic, the children's book publisher.

"The whole purpose is to encourage our kids to read through the summer," Cavanaugh said. "Our media specialist has done a wonderful job providing these books through Scholastic."

Six bookmobiles will be held during the summer, rain or shine, at four locations: Susick, Milverton Park, Brinston Park and outside the Canterbury Square Apartments clubhouse. The bookmobile is available to Susick students at each grade level, including children who are entering kindergarten this fall to students who just exited fifth-grade. Students choose the books they want.

"The Chocolate Touch," "Stink and the Midnight Zombies Walk," "Iggy Pig's Beach Day" and the "Golden Cadillac" were among the many titles offered at the most recent bookmobile held July 22. Jasak provided students and their parents with safety activity booklets and pamphlets.

"It's a great program. It's my first year doing it with them," Jasak said. She and the students have gotten to know each other this year through a variety of activities, including when Jasak read to them during March Is Reading Month.

Shepitka said that Title I funding is set aside to purchase the bookmobile items. She orders books every month throughout the school year to prepare for summer.

"I try to get a good selection. I try to get all genres ... science fiction, mysteries and picture books for the younger kids," she said. "So far we have serviced close to 200 kids this summer. Reading, to me, is the key to knowledge and to be a lifelong learner. Without reading, you're not a learner throughout your life."

While the books are free, the Susick students must do a little bit of work to receive them. With each pair of books, the students also receive a graphic organizer and are required to complete a writing assignment due at the next book visit.

For one assignment, students wrote a "story train" in which they were asked what happened first, next and last in the book. Another writing mission was penning a reflection piece describing the beginning, middle and end of the story.

The bookmobile is one of many ways staff encourages reading. As one example, the school's Parent Teacher Organization purchased new books this year for the students. Before school ended in June, each student picked four books to keep.

The bookmobile has three dates scheduled next month: Aug. 6, 13 and 26. The bookmobile travels from site to site, staying at each location about 15-20 minutes. To participate, students must have a parent or guardian present.

The Aug. 6 bookmobile will arrive at 10 a.m. at Milverton Park; 10:20 a.m. at Canterbury; 10:40 a.m. at Brinston; and 11 a.m. at Susick. On Aug. 13 and 26, the crew will arrive at 6 p.m. at Milverton; 6:20 p.m. at Canterbury; 6:40 p.m. at Brinston; and 7 p.m. at Susick.

For more information, email Pat Cavanaugh at pcavanaugh@wcskids.net.

You can reach C & G Staff Writer Maria Allard at allard@candgnews.com or at (586)498-1045.