



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024

MASON MINUTE

Weekly District News

Bulldog Bright Spot

Congratulations to Mason High School Librarian Kristin Sandel for leading the high school library to earn a “qualified” status as a School Library for 21st Century Schools. The endorsement is awarded by the Library of Michigan.

To achieve the qualified endorsement, a library must meet statewide benchmarks for quality service, learning, environment, and leadership for students.

Thank you for all you do to help our students grow and learn in the library!



New (Furry) Staff Members to Join MPS



We are excited to announce the project to add therapy dogs to Mason Middle School and Mason High School has taken several steps forward!

Our new furry friends are Sullivan (Sully) (left) and Lewis (right)! They are 5-month-old Goldendoodle brothers who are currently training and acclimating with their host/handlers-teachers Krista Sherman, who will have Lewis at the high school and Erik Cargill, who will host Sully at the middle school.

The host/handlers and their families are taking part in training with our dogs, preparing for them to move into their homes, and acclimating to their

families. We anticipate the dogs will be visible in our secondary buildings on a part-time basis throughout the rest of the school year.



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Every student. Every day.

We are thankful to our two sponsors who have supported the purchase of the two dogs. Deb Dansby is a Mason alum who is the VP of Marketing for Farm Bureau Insurance and the owner of Dog Gone Fun in Okemos. Deb was instrumental in getting this process started as she reached out to us after seeing other local districts have tremendous success with the program. Deb and her team at Dog Gone Fun are sponsoring Sully at the middle school.

Our second sponsor is the Mark Voss Agency - Farm Bureau Insurance. Mark, a Mason community member, and his agency have generously stepped in to fully support Lewis at the high school. If you get an opportunity to see either of our sponsors, please give them a big thank you.

Stay tuned for more exciting news and photos of our newest furry staff members!

Sign up now for Summer EBT Benefits

This upcoming summer, eligible families will be able to receive money for select food items through the new [Summer EBT program](#). The United States Department of Agriculture has approved a permanent Summer EBT program for eligible households and school districts.

To receive the Summer EBT benefit, every family must have an approved student eligibility benefit (free or reduced) through their school.

If your family has already completed and submitted a School Meals and Summer EBT Application for the 2023-24 school year- you **do not** need to apply again for the Summer EBT benefit.

Families who have not completed the form, and would like to receive the Summer EBT benefit, must do so by Friday, Feb. 7 in order to be enrolled. Please complete the [Household Application for Free and Reduce-Price School Meals](#) as soon as possible.

If you have questions about the form, please contact Food Services (517) 676-6529. Questions about the EBT program can also be [emailed](#).

Enroll Early for the Elementary School Dances!



Don't wait to sign up for the spring elementary school dances! All events will take place at Mason Middle School on Saturday, March 16, 2024.

Please be sure to [enroll in the appropriate event](#) for your child's elementary dance and enroll your child and one adult to attend with them. Search the registration codes below to register for the correct dance for students and adults.

- 3-4:15pm - Alaiedon Elementary Dance, 5000-W24 (child), 5001-W24 (adult)
- 5-6:15pm - North Aurelius Elementary Dance, 5002-W24 (child), 5003-W24 (adult)
- 7-8:15pm - Steele Elementary Dance, 5004-W24 (child), 5005-W24 (adult)

Harvey Kindergarten students should attend the same dance as an older sibling. If the student does not have an older sibling, please sign up for either the 3 or 5 pm dance! Dances are open to Mason students currently enrolled in kindergarten-5th grade. Tickets are non-transferable and there will be no refunds after tickets are purchased. Enrollment closes March 4, 2024, or when the event is full.



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It is Red Carpet Gala Time!



Join us at the Mason Public Schools Foundation Commercial Bank Red Carpet Gala on March 9, 2024!

[Tickets are now on sale](#), secure your spot for a night of glamour and support of our Mason Public Schools!

Community-Based Offerings

Did you know the MPS website has a page for [Community-Based](#) classes, programs and events? Whether you're looking to get involved or looking to share information about community-based programs such as scouting, camps, sports, and other programs- this is the place. Submission can be submitted via [email](#).

High School Principal Search

The search is underway for a new principal for Mason High School. Earlier this year, longtime Principal Lance Delbridge announced his plans to retire at the end of the school year. The district is committed to a robust, comprehensive search in order to find a new leader for the high school and plans to make a hiring recommendation to the Board of Education later this spring.

Aquatic Center Events



Underwater Egg Hunt! Join us for an egg hunt and a movie to follow on Sunday, March 17 from 1-3 p.m. Eggs will be filled with prizes and float on the water. Younger participants will hunt for eggs on the pool deck.

No preregistration is required, please bring check or correct cash to pay at the door. \$5/student or senior, \$6/adult, \$15/family of four, plus \$1/each additional person from each household.

The Mason Aquatic Center will be open for lap swim, water fitness, and open swim. The schedule below runs from January 8- March 31, 2024.

Open Swim

- Fridays, 7-9 p.m.
- Saturdays, 1-3 p.m.
- No swimming: February 16, 17, 23, 24 and March 22, 23, 29, 30
- \$3/adult, \$2/student or senior citizen, \$8/family of four. Punch cards are available.

Water Fitness

- Mondays and Wednesdays, 7:15-9:15 p.m.
- Shallow and deep-water classes
- No classes: January 15, February 19, March 25 and 27
- \$6 at the door, punch cards are available.



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Adult Lap Swim (ages 18+)

- Tuesday- Friday, 6-7:30 p.m.
 - No swim: February 16, March 22, 25-29
- Saturdays, 7-8:30 a.m.
 - No swim: February 17 and 24, March 23 and 30

- Mondays and Wednesdays, 7:15-8:45 p.m.
 - No swim: January 15, February 19, March 25 and 27
- No shallow end water walking available during lap swim.
- \$5/person or \$25/10-punch card.

Important Dates

- February 16-19- Mid-Winter Break- No School
- March 22- No School
- March 25-29- Spring Break- No School



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