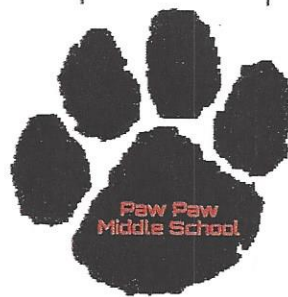
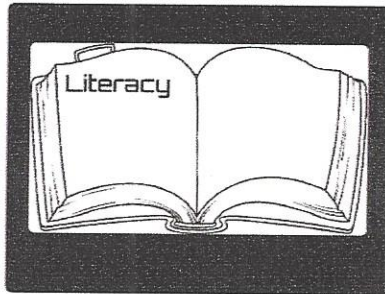


WE ARE  
Great  
from  
A to Z

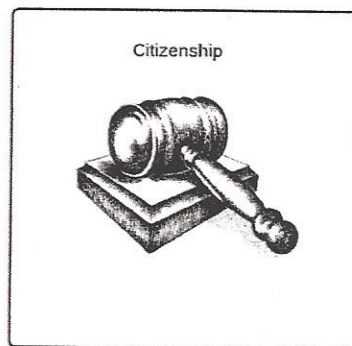
BY PPMS

SIXTH GRADERS





Literacy
<p>Literacy Is the quality or state of being literate, especially the ability to read and write. Here at Paw Paw we learn literacy in the media center and in language arts. We also use it in all of our classes. We work on literacy the most, because if you can't read or write it will be hard to get into college.</p>



H.B
<p>Healthy Behaviors means having a lifestyle that is more than just focusing on unhealthy habits. Here at Paw Paw Middle School, we try our best to eat healthy foods. Like at lunch we have many fruit and veggie selections so that we eat right and take care of our bodies. Daily exercising is something we also do here at our school.</p>

Citizenship
<p>Citizenship is the status of being a citizen. Here at paw paw middle school every student is a citizen. If you have citizenship in a country, you have the right to live there, work there, and pay taxes. At Paw Paw middle school a citizen has the right to learn, express yourself, and your belongings.</p>



## Welcome to Paw Paw Middle School!

We hope that when you are done reading our book you will feel like you know us, like you just can't wait to meet us! The BE GREAT Challenge started as an after school opportunity for any interested sixth grader. The word spread about the possibility of winning the challenge, and it soon became a grade level project. We decided to write an alphabet book. The process went something like this:

- First we defined Literacy, Citizenship, and Healthy Behaviors.
- Next we brainstormed a list of activities, programs, and events at PPMS that promote and practice Literacy, Citizenship and Healthy Behaviors.
- Then we matched the ideas to a letter of the alphabet.
- After that we started to research, and we interviewed experts.
- We worked on our craft; writing interesting leads, answering the reporter questions, choosing relevant details and evidence, and using figurative language.
- We had an editor's group working hard to put the ideas together and another group working on images for each topic.

**In your hands you have the final product, We Are GREAT From A to Z. A book that celebrates our amazing sixth graders and recognizes all of the great ways we practice Literacy, Citizenship, and Healthy Behaviors at Paw Paw Middle School.**



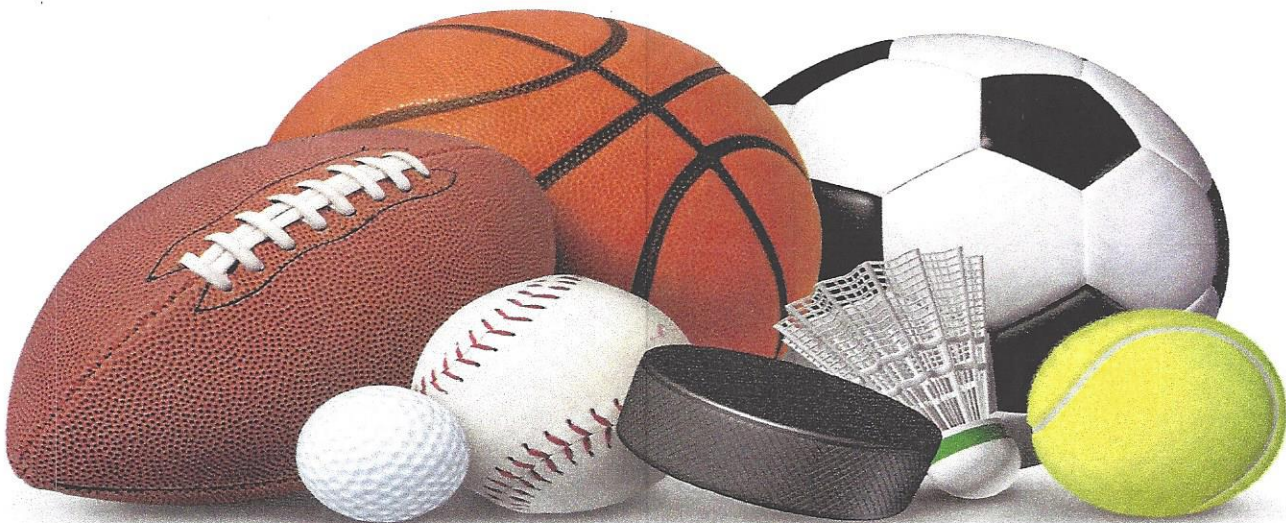
## **WE ARE GREAT FROM A TO Z**

Page	Activity / Event / Program
<b>a</b>	Athletics
<b>b</b>	Book Chats
<b>c</b>	Citizen of the Month
<b>d</b>	Daily Gratitude Practice
<b>e</b>	Election Day
<b>f</b>	Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery
<b>g</b>	Give Books Get Books
<b>h</b>	Happiness Quotes
<b>i</b>	Intern Teachers
<b>j</b>	Journals
<b>k</b>	Kindness
<b>l</b>	Leos Club
<b>m</b>	Media Center
<b>n</b>	New Friends
<b>o</b>	Outdoor Activities
<b>p</b>	Pledge of Allegiance
<b>q</b>	Quote Sandwich
<b>r</b>	Re-teach Tuesday
<b>s</b>	Student Council
<b>t</b>	Tolerance
<b>u</b>	University Trips
<b>v</b>	Veteran's Day
<b>w</b>	Winter Games
<b>x</b>	X-Country
<b>y</b>	Yearbook Club
<b>z</b>	Zero Tolerance for Bullying



## Athletics

I walked into the bleachers and sat next to my cousin Zoe. The game had just started, and the first thing Zoe and I saw was Grace Will, #22, shoot a three pointer, and I thought, this is going to be a great game. Ok so it wasn't that great of a game, we lost by three points but it was still fun to watch. Here at Paw Paw Middle School we have lots of fun athletics for boys and girls. Such as basketball, soccer, cross country, football, tennis, track, volleyball, cheerleading, competitive cheer and wrestling. Some of the teachers here at Paw Paw are coaches, like Mr. Beaudry he's the 6th grade history teacher but, he is also, the coach for the boys basketball team. We have games and practices after school. Athletics supports healthy behaviours because we encourage kids to play sports like football and basketball, because at Paw Paw we want kids to stay active and healthy. By running and staying active we can stay healthy and if we are healthy and stay healthy as a kid, we will be healthy when we are older.

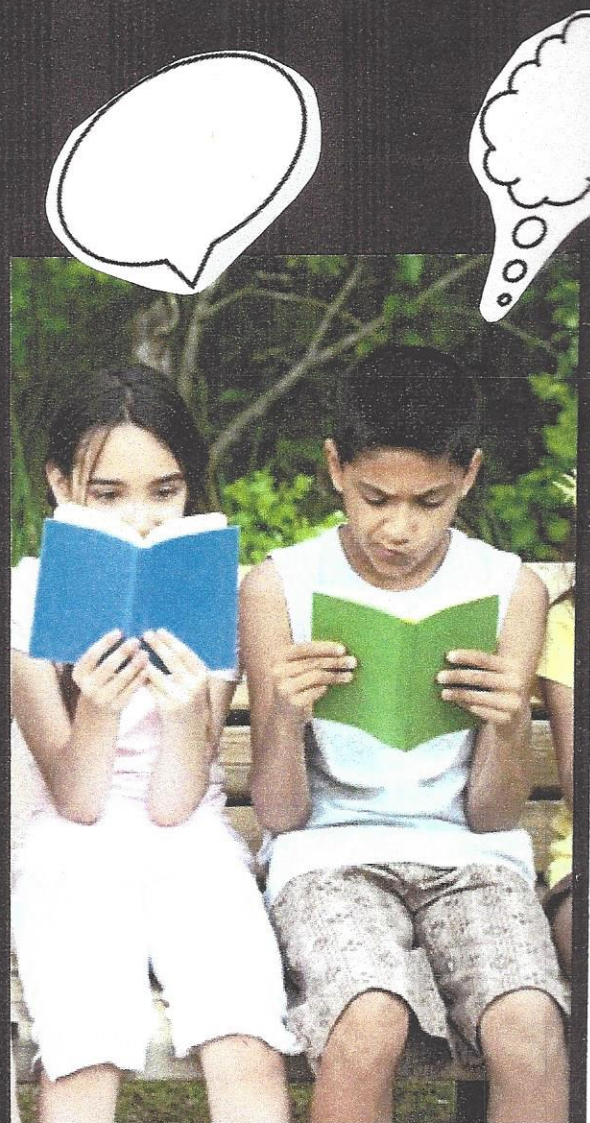




# B

## Book Chat

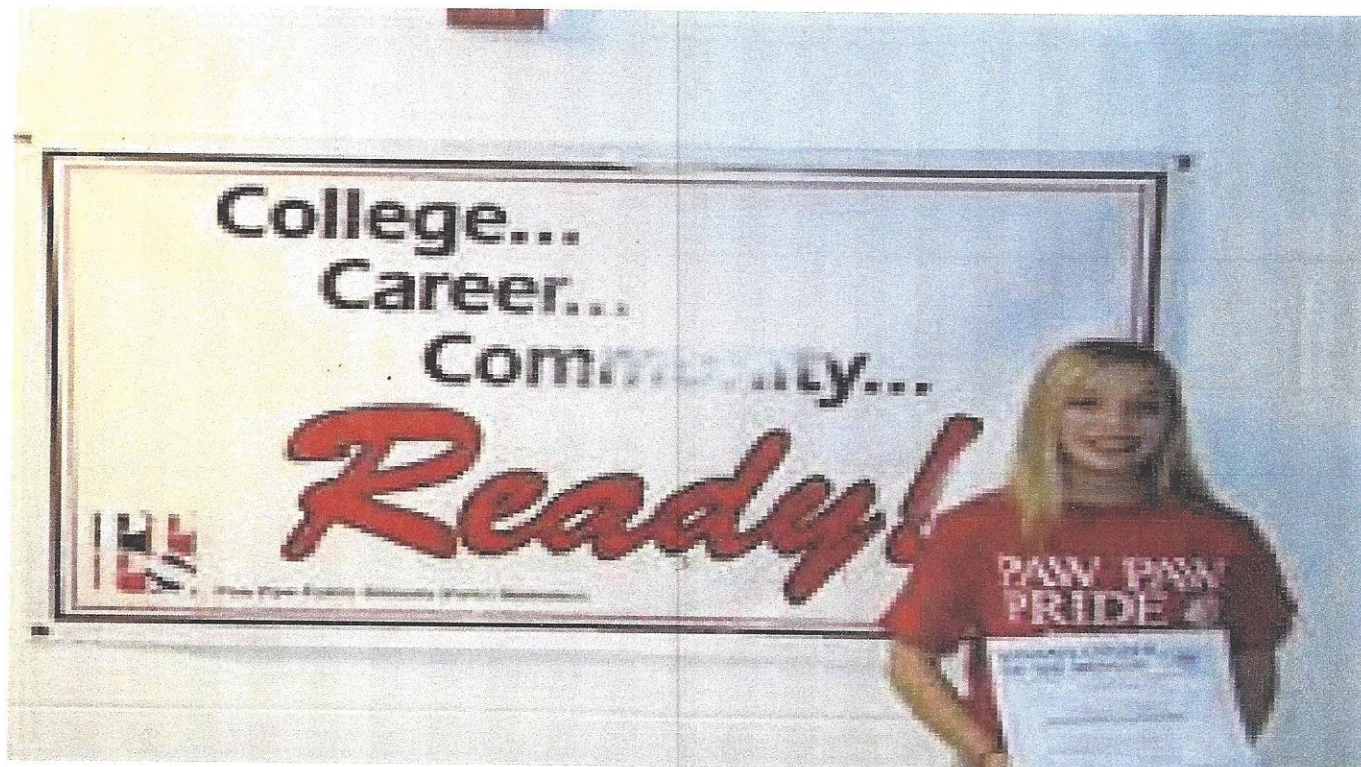
I walked into L.A and I felt the cool air on my skin and looked at the greeting message on the board. It said book chats and I thought "what the heck is a book chat? A book chat is when you use the book you're reading and share your response. The sharing last 30 seconds and read silently. Book chats are great, because everyone gets involved. Some of us do it with our families and they love it. Book chats are a great way to build social skills, and it also helps with talking with a big group or in front of people. The teacher gets to chose how to teach reading strategies. I think its a fun way to do reading strategies. we have speaking and listening standards that we have to use. Then my last question was what do you learn the most in a book chat. You learn to be really good to each other and just getting along. Also reading and talking about your book is a life skill. This really helps other people want to read too.





## Citizen of the Month

I walked into the PPPS school board meeting at the Administration Offices, and I thought, 'Oh god, I really can't mess up now.' I was so nervous, my legs felt like jelly, and I felt like I was going to throw up! To calm my quaking nerves, I looked at all the different faces, my parents, the superintendent, the teachers of PPMS, and the whole school board was all there, waiting to award me Citizen of the Month. This award declares that the student who has been given it is a great student. Whether he or she is in 6th grade, 7th grade, or 8th grade, any student at PPMS can be awarded this title of excellence. It happens every school board meeting. 'How do you get this award?', you ask. Well, you can get it by just being the best at everything you do! Joining after school clubs, being active in your community, and getting good grades in every class is a surefire way to get recognized for your efforts! Mr. Habra, our superintendent, says, "This award gives PPMS an opportunity to show our students are special. It helps all the students have something to strive for." So, there you have it! This award gives a chance for all our students to be great!





D

## Daily Gratitude Sentences

I walked into the big, white, warm classroom. I looked up at the bright smart board and saw big, black, bold letters that said, "please write your gratitude sentence." I thought what should I write and who should I write it about? All of a sudden, a big WHOOOSH, came and gave me goosebumps. I looked at everyone and they didn't seem like they knew what they were gonna write about. It was 2nd hour in E.L.A class with Mrs. Wilgten. Everyday we write a gratitude sentence about someone or something that happened over the weekend, or an act of kindness. We learn about how to write sentences about people and to not start with the same thing everyday. We choose, "daily gratitude sentences, because we should practice them more." Also, "we write everyday to acknowledge a friend/friend." We also use daily gratitude because "it improves health, and reduces stress." The daily gratitude sentences creates healthy habit to use for rest of life." Daily gratitude sentences make Paw Paw Middle School a special place because it helps us with our writing and makes better futures for us if we want to become an author.

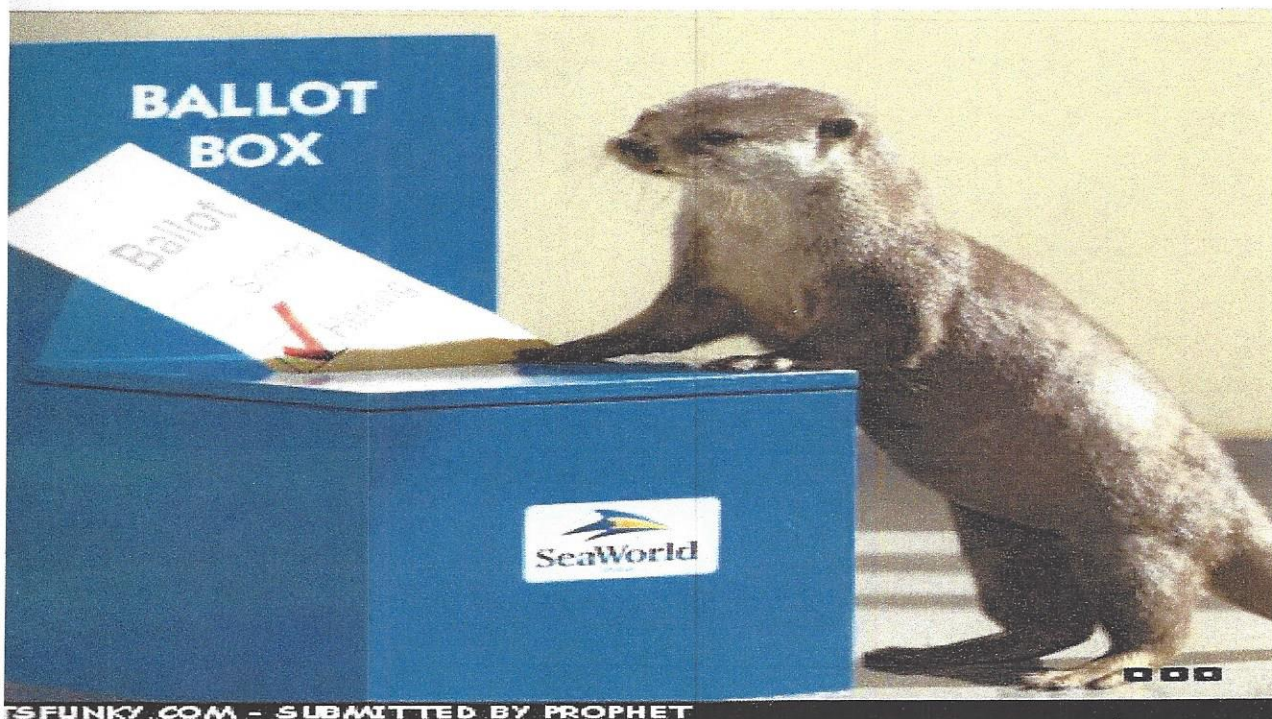
Never let the things  
you WANT  
make you forget  
the things  
you HAVE.



SHOWING  
GRATITUDE IS ONE  
OF THE SIMPLEST  
YET MOST  
POWERFUL THINGS  
HUMANS CAN  
DO FOR EACH  
OTHER.

RANDY PAUSCH





### Election Day

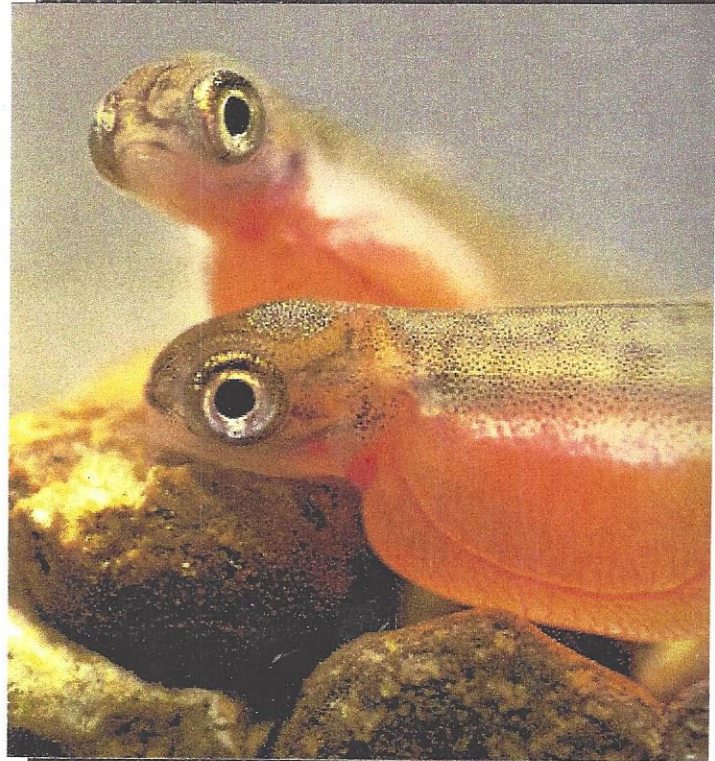
I walked into the cafeteria, saw the computers lined up against the wall, and thought who should I vote for. I felt like I was stuck in a small room with a birthday party. It was total chaos. It was election day at Paw Paw Middle School. A billion kids were lined up to vote for president, vice president, state representative and more. The room was buzzing with excitement. On November fourth when adults are voting kids at Paw Paw Middle School are voting too. This helps the students prepare for real voting, and it shows students how voting works. For example, at the end students even get 'I voted stickers'. Our school is special because we are the only school in the area that has election day. Paw Paw Middle School hopes to have a longer line for election day next year.



F

## Fish Hatchery

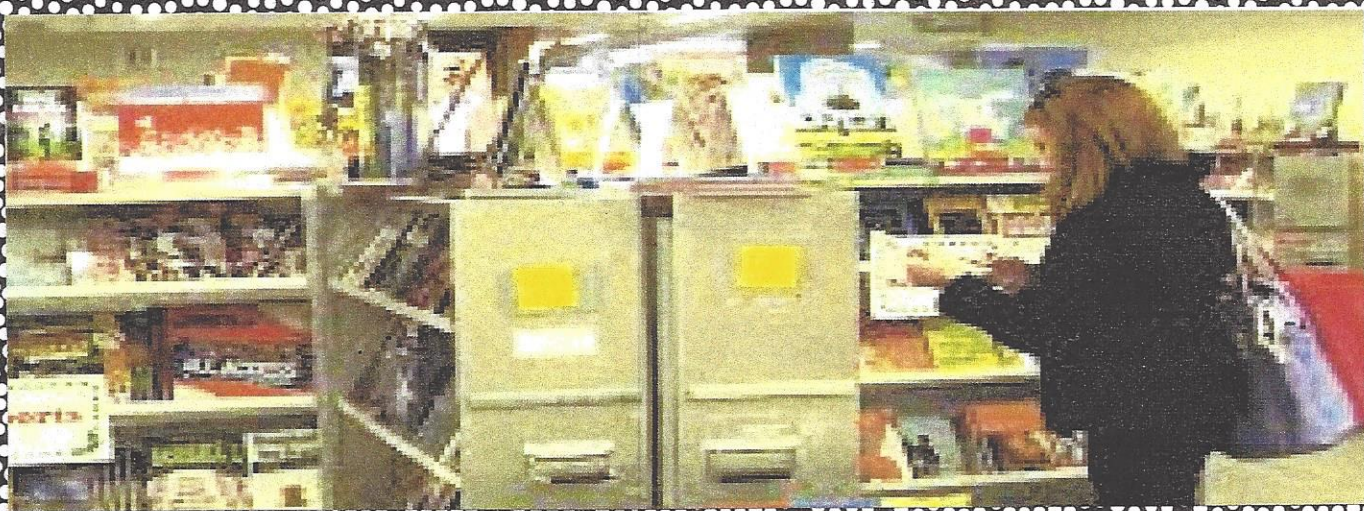
On a cold, foggy, October morning, I walked into science class, I saw Mrs. Larson standing at her desk with her coat on. That's when I remembered that we were going to the fish hatchery. When I walked out on to the damp grass the smell of fish overwhelmed me. Then we learned about the fish and fed them. Then we left. When we got the salmon, we did a writing about how they look and what we learned in the fish hatchery. The salmon in the classroom is about teaching us about how fish change, and how many typically survive. What the fish hatchery does is they protect the fish. This makes Paw Paw Middle School special because we are one of the very few schools who get to go to the fish hatchery and get the salmon. The South Haven Steelheads fund us the fish tank and other things to keep the fish in a safe and clean environment. They do this so we can learn to appreciate the environment and learn more about fish. Mrs. Larson says that in the spring we release the fish into the Paw Paw river and hope they find their fertile stream. In the classroom later that semester we played a salmon survival game. Only one person survived, the game made me realize that only a few salmon make it to their fertile stream. We learn more every day, like that the fish hatcheries job is not by any means easy. Every day we see Mrs. Larson re-filling the tank or feeding them. The fish food doesn't smell that good either. To watch the fish grow from egg to fry is an excellent experience and any school would be lucky to be ours.





## Give Book Get Books

The 6th grade students brought so many books that it looked like a book fair! There were miles and miles of Books on tables all down the hallway. When i saw it I thought "Aw Crap!" That was the day I got back from being sick, and that was also when the GBGB (Give Book Get Book) event happened. Give Books Get Books is a trading system that we did in language arts. Students brought extra books so if a student was absent from school they could still get a book. "What if you brought in more than one book?" You're probably asking. You would get a second choice of books. You could only get two books but you can give as many as you wanted. Each student gets a tick for each book they trade in. You could also give a ticket, for getting a book, to someone who didn't give a book or couldn't, A.K.A me! The give books get books is like a like a library, without having to return them!" A Mystery teacher said this about this topic: "The students gave books to other kids and that helps spread kindness around the school." "The project provided fresh books for students, which keeps us interested in reading." Students show citizenship by recycling their books. Paw Paw Middle School is special because it is the only school that recycles books for students like this.





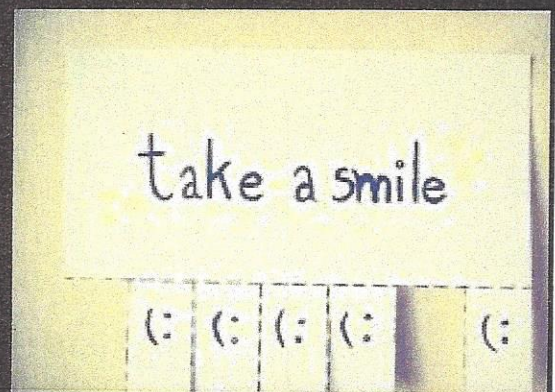
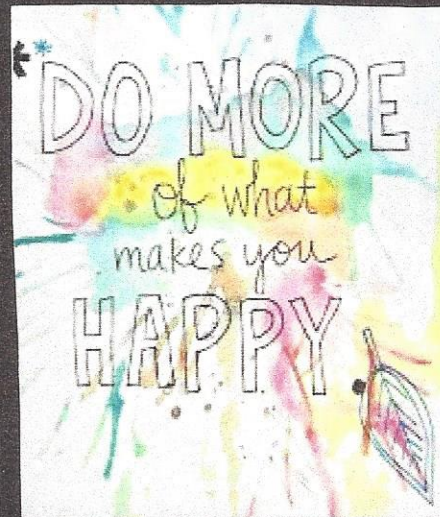
# H

## Happiness Quote

On the first day of school when I walked into L.A. I read what was written on the smartboard and it was titled "Happiness Quote," and when I read it I thought why is this in L.A.? A happiness quote is a saying that was made by someone that makes you feel good. All of the students in Paw Paw Middle School read the happiness quote. When we go to L.A. the plan for the day is written on the board so our teacher, Miss. Wiltgen chooses two people to read the smart board and, the happiness quote. She was at the bookstore and she saw a book that said Happiness Quotes, when she looked inside it and saw there were 5 years worth of happiness quotes. This is an act of healthy behaviors because research shows that when you focus on the good things and not the bad things you will have a good day and a restful night. The happiness quote makes Paw Paw Middle School special because no other school does this. It makes the kids here happy and ready for any task that comes our way.



**Be HAPPY**  
for this moment.





# HELLO

my name is

## INTERN MR JAKEKNAGGS

### Intern Teachers

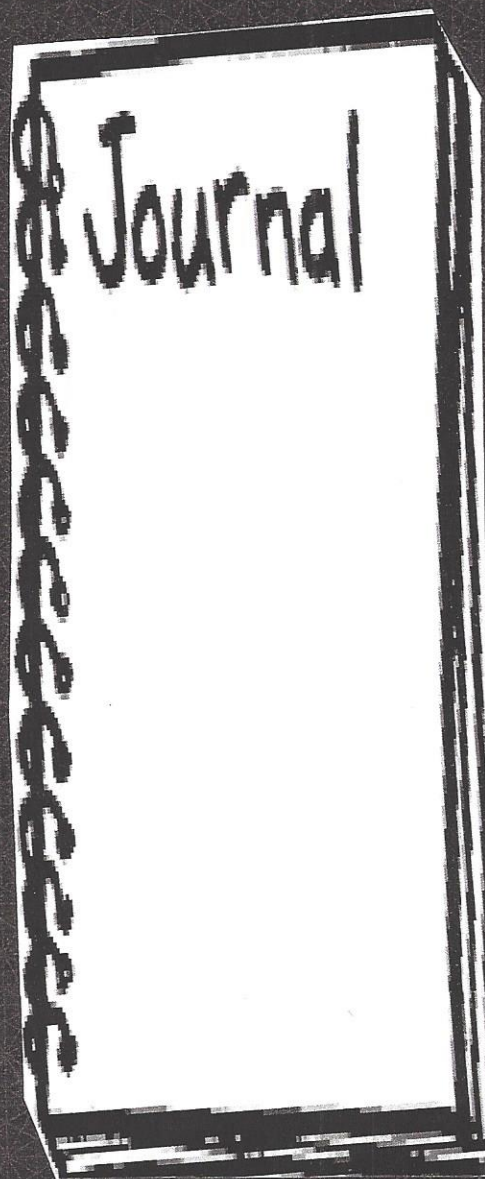
As I walked into math, I saw a woman I have never seen before, and then I looked at Mr. Crook and looked back at the "New Lady" and thought "This will be interesting". Later on, I realized that the new woman was Miss Mort. She would be the math intern for a portion of the year. At Paw Paw Schools, our interns are from Western Michigan University and they are completing their last year. To understand how much different it is to be in a live classroom instead of a college classroom, they come here to do intern teaching. Usually, the intern teaches fully for about 2-3 weeks and then they graduate. To get more information on intern teaching, my group and I interviewed the intern teaching program coordinator Mrs. Reisterer (also the art teacher). When applications come in Mrs. Reisterer looks at them and only selects the best so, we, the students, can learn from the best. During the process of selecting the best interns, Mrs. Reisterer, looks at the way the person uses grammar, handwriting, word choice, and decides if the intern would be a good match. Interns do a pre-internship before doing a full time internship. The pre-internship decides if the intern really wants to choose this career path, or as Mrs. Reisterer quotes, "getting their feet wet". Paw Paw has a bigger number of interns (AKA a cluster site) compared to a lot of other schools. When interns come in to different classrooms, the students learn other teachers perspectives on teaching, rules, strategies, and get to be in an unusual environment. Interns are like sponges, they stuck in knowledge about teaching. This intern teaching program really helps our literacy by learning with other teachers so we can get different perspectives of other teacher's ways of teaching.



# J

## Journals

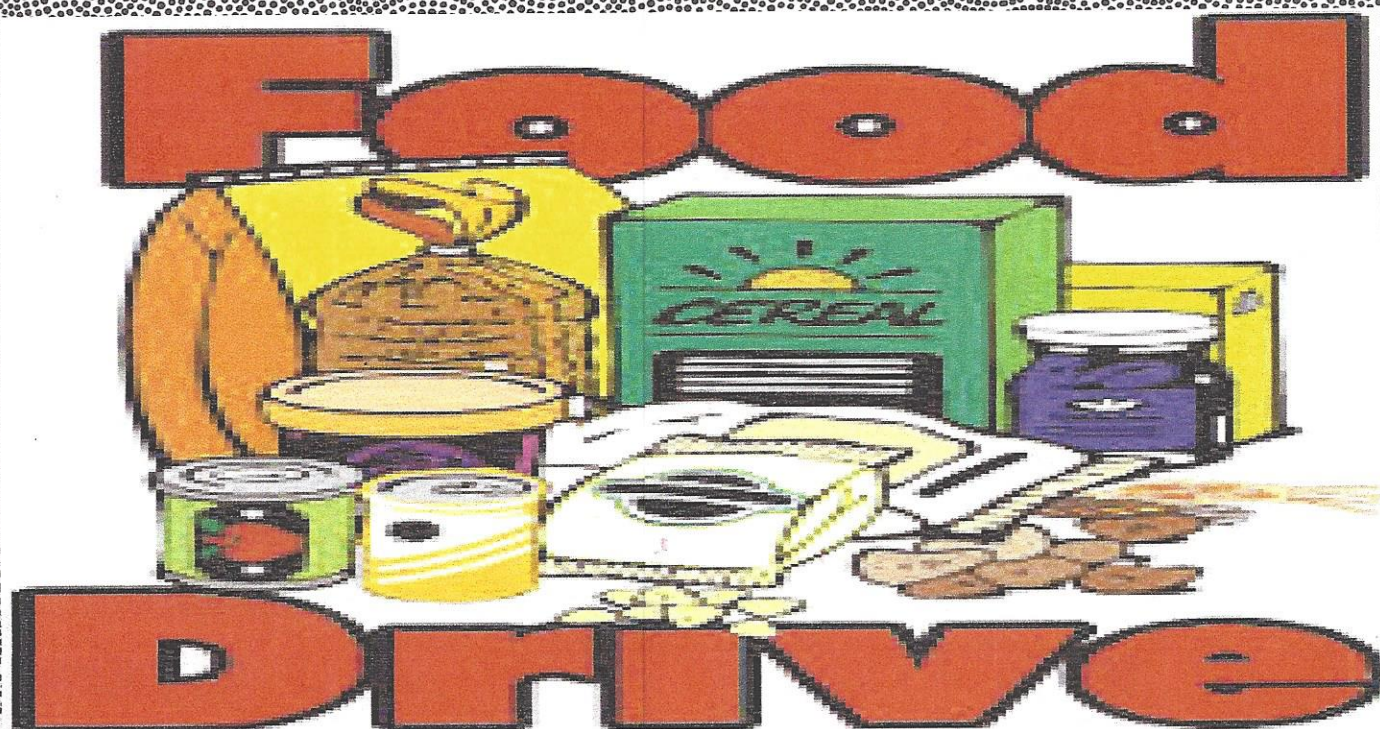
Take notes, record your ideas! This is what we do at Paw Paw Middle School. When I walked into the science room, I saw all the kids doing their starters in their journals and I thought, I hope we write in our journals for the whole hour! Journals are what we do our warm ups in, take notes with, and study for quizzes with. All of the students use journals in most of their classes including: Science, Language Arts, History, Math, and Spanish. Journals make a connection to literacy, because they help us with writing, and how to format writing. Journals make PPMS special because if we don't understand something, we can just check in our journals. No need to talk and get in trouble, just simply look in your journal. That's another reason why PPMS is so special!!





## Kindness

As I stood in my kitchen looking at our pantry full of food, I thought to myself never in a million years can my family eat all of this. Then I remembered Mr. McDaniel saying something about a Food Drive. So I ran to get a box and i filled it to the top with canned goods and boxed goods. It was a perfect opportunity to reach out and show how kind we are. In advisory class contests like this one are run by student council. They teach us about citizenship, because you are donating food to needy people in the community. Another activity to show our kindness is the senior diner is Mrs. Fortin and the student council run the activity. The food drive had over 1,000 donations. Activities that promote kindness teach us about being grateful, and about how helping others is important. At school the student council runs the food drive. Student council goes to every advisory class and gets the canned goods from every room. They find families that need food or people to apply to help them so that they can have food for their families. The food drive and showing kindness represents our school by showing that we care about others.

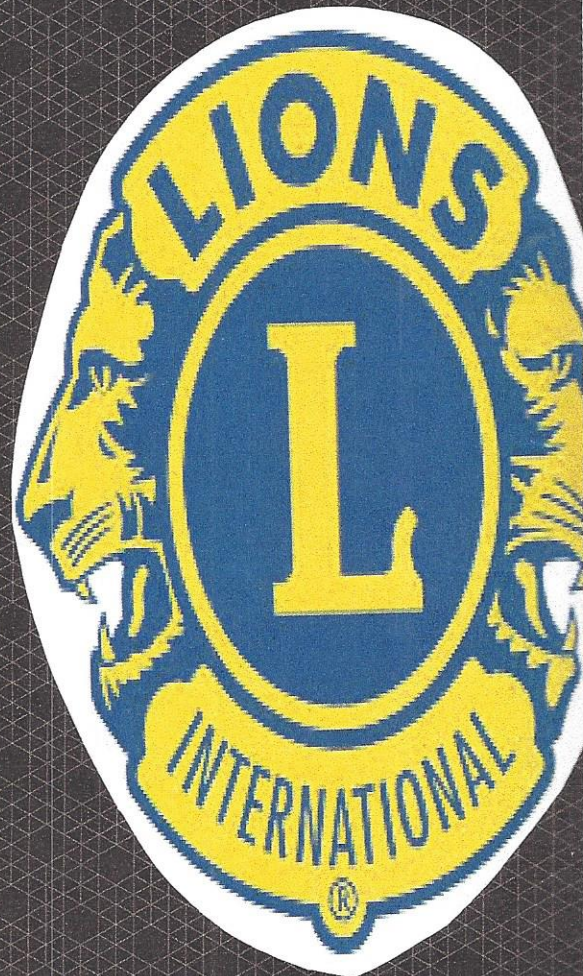




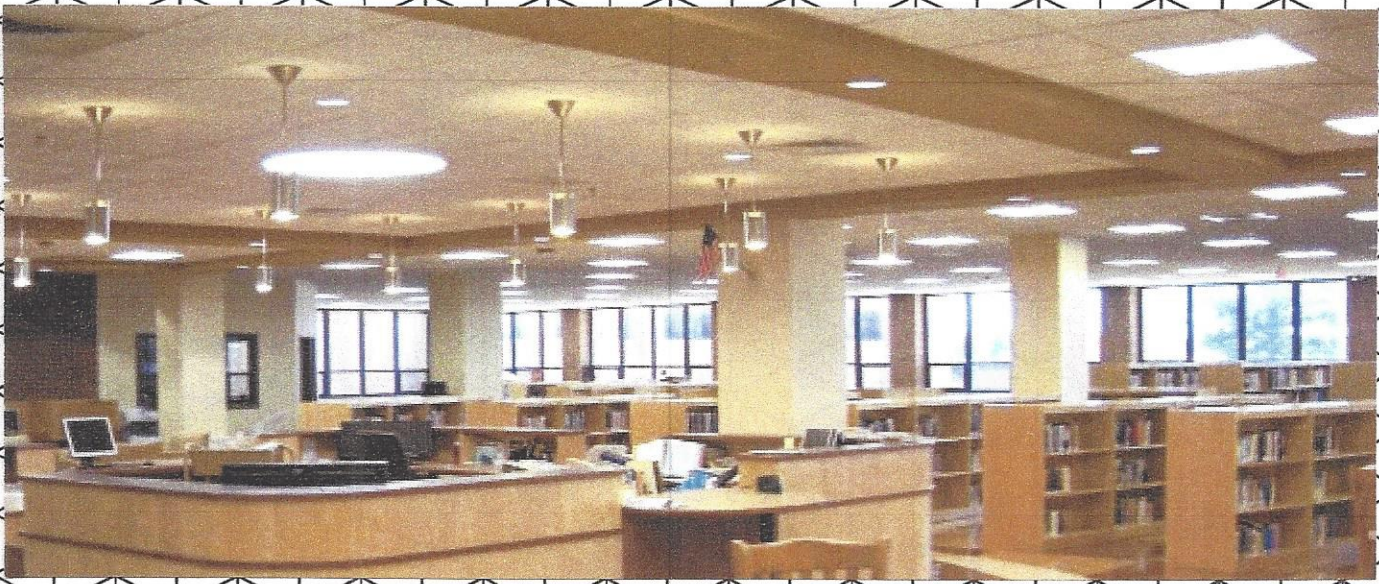
L

### *Leo's Club*

After a rough day of school I walked into the bright hallway and I saw the most beautiful and colorful sign that had twelve tons of glitter it read "Leo's Club". The Leo's Club meets after school in room 606 at Paw Paw Middle School with the president Mrs. Anderson. The Leo's Club has 24 students who help the community, by doing community services and many events including: food drives, used glasses drives, spaghetti dinners for people that have cancer, Christmas gifts for teens, they make posters, and they even sent food to 150 people in need. This is the first year that Paw Paw Middle School has had the Leo's Club! It is actually the first Leo's Club in the whole Van Buren County. The Leo's Club is part of the Lions Club here in Paw Paw. The Leo's Club is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. Paw Paw Middle School decided to create this club because most colleges accept students that have done community service in their past. They also created the Leo's Club, because not everybody is athletic so they created it so every student in Paw Paw Middle School can be part of a team.







### Media Center

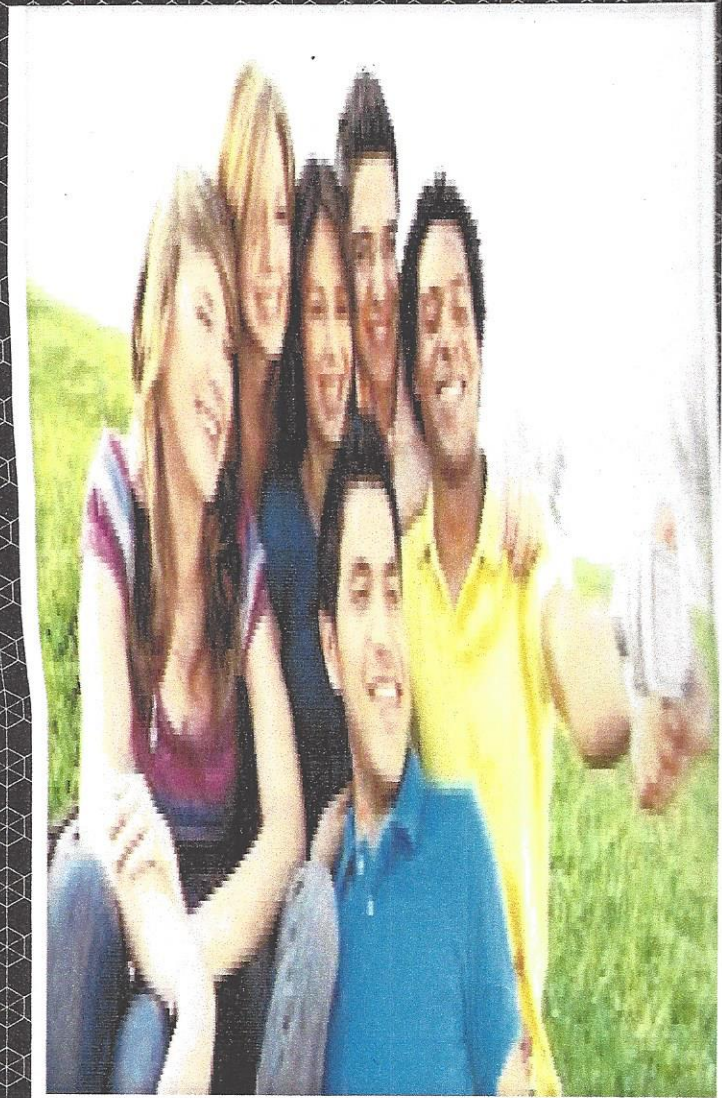
*I walk into the media center through two beautiful glass doors. I see the snowflakes falling to the ground because of the graceful wall full of windows. I am frozen from excitement like gum stuck in hair. The whole time I am thinking to myself, "wow, these years will be great." Mrs. Breen has a job as a librarian. She has many roles, she will check out books for more than 300 kids, she manages the computer lab, orders new books for the media center, keeps inventory of all the books, reserves the computer lab, and does an after school program. In the media center they have books, computers and they even record the afternoon announcements. One thing that we do in the media center is Caught Tickets, teachers give out caught tickets to students who are working hard, when you get one you go to the media center and get candy. In the media center we promote literacy, we have to be quiet for others around us and there are no food or drinks allowed. Some cool things about the media center are there is a big screen TV for different activities, laptop carts are stored in the media center, and there are more than 9,000 books! We have supplies such as scissors, glue, and colored pencils. We also have magazines, we are able to display projects on the shelf, and we have Mrs. Anderson's drop box who is the school counselor. The media center is a beautiful place, which makes Paw Paw Middle School Special, because students are bewildered, happy, proud, and excited to go there and read.*



N

## New Friends

Are you having trouble with finding new friends? You would not have that problem at Paw Paw Middle School (PPMS). We have multiple ways to find new friends. If you are looking to make new friends you can join what we call the Peer to Peer program. In this program you either are a link or a student. Links are the students who help the mentally challenged, misfit kids who are getting behind on work, or some who want students help on their work. The program is managed by Mrs. Anderson our school guidance counselor. She says "I love the program and it is a great way to find new friends". They meet every Thursday at advisory time in a unknown special room. This is a great Healthy Behavior because it makes the kids some new friends and guides in our lives to a better life. We were the first school in Van Buren county to start this program. That's why it makes us special.





## Outdoor Activities

As I step out onto the back parking lot I see everyone else running around enjoying themselves the playground and the grass, I start to think "How much nicer can a day outside during recess get?" Paw Paw Middle we have lots of exhilarating outdoor activities that are as fun as an amusement park ride, and that makes it fun for all students, even the teachers and para pros that help out! Some of these activities include recess and gym. Gym, or as some people call it P.E. (physical education), is one of those periods to practice weight lifting, sports, and aerobics. If you try your hardest you could be as awesome as a pro. The teachers at Paw Paw that teach physical education include Mrs. Lassiter and Mr. Northuis. For recess we get to go out to the back parking lot and run around on the fields of grass, we get to play on the miniature playground that is just the right size. For gym, if the weather is nice, on Fridays we run the mile run on the track by the playground. This benefits us even if we feel it's not a waste of time, and it gets us to exercise even if we don't want to. When the weather is nice and warm like a tropical island, any of the students that want to go outside for recess get to go to the playground for the last fifteen minutes of our lunch period. We do this because having recess helps us practice healthy behaviors, it also makes Paw Paw Middle School one of the most special schools out there. Even Mr. Northuis said that Paw Paw Public Schools has a unique luxury because not all schools get to have much physical activities, and much less gym. As some people don't know that being active and playing sports can increase your GPA. Meaning that physical education and physical activities are good for you and your mind, and sometimes having physical activities at school can motivate the youth to be more active outside what they're doing inside school. If the youth is more active inside and outside school, it will keep them physically and mentally more healthy. As Mr. Northuis said when I interviewed him "Healthy living, strong mind." Healthy living means you have to be active and not be lazy and lay around all day, but that doesn't mean you have to be active all the time because it's okay to be relaxed too. In gym class we sometimes have days where we don't do as much as the day before to make sure we don't get sore or work ourselves too hard, so we're being active and being a little relaxed too. Having things like multiple types of gym, choice of recess, mile runs, and open fields to run around makes this school special. It's not just that we have gym and recess and other people don't, it's because we get to have the privileges of all these things together in just one school. So that is what makes Paw Paw Middle School lucky, unique, and special, just like a four leaf clover.





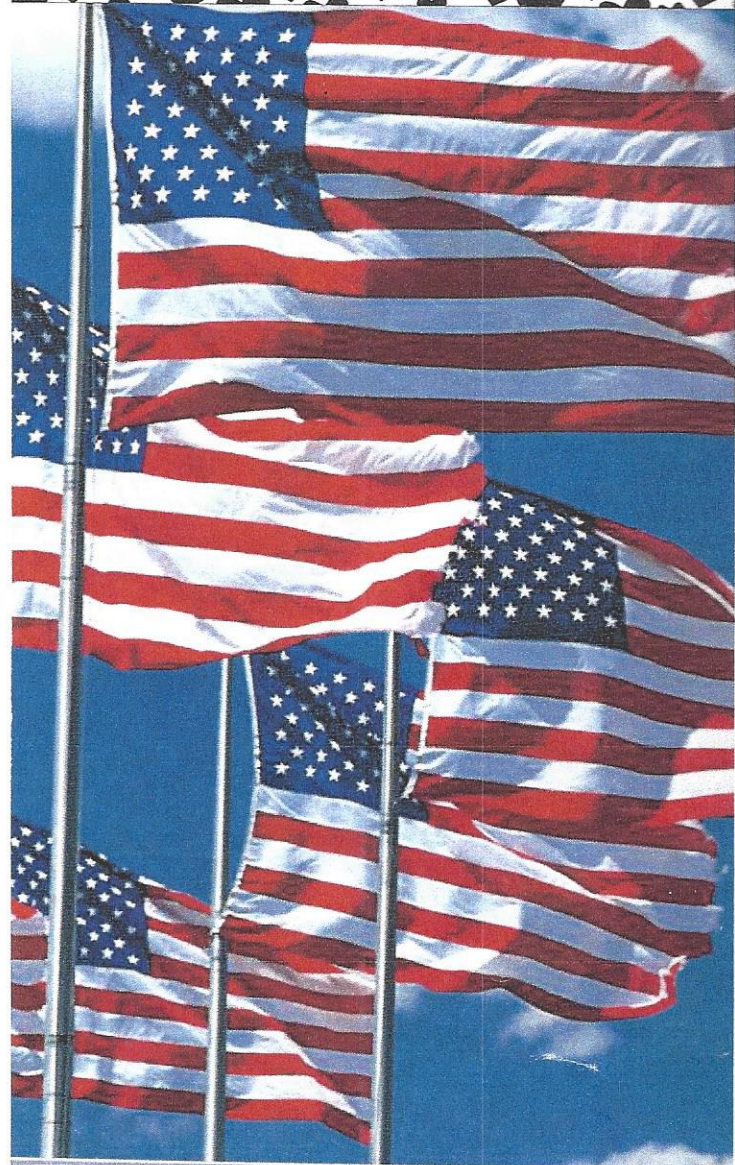
P

## Pledge of Allegiance

In the morning the class stands up. We all start to say the pledge, I think,

“this has become strangely natural...”. At Paw Paw public schools, it has become a custom to say the pledge of allegiance. Every morning, about three to four minutes after the bell rings, the announcements come on and they say, “would you all please rise for the pledge.” Then, we do what comes naturally. After the pledge, we all sit down, and get back to work. Before

this year, the middle and high schools didn’t say the pledge. But the sixth grade social studies teacher Mr. Beaudry, thought that we should say it, because its patriotic and teaches children to honor America. During our interview with Mr. Beaudry, he said things like,” It shows a common bond between all students by showing respect to our country.” I think that the pledge of allegiance is special to Paw Paw because not every school says it, and here we think that every school should.





Q

Olive

Statement introducing  
the quotation

The quotation

Explanation following  
the quotation

## Quote Sandwich

YUMMY!!!! It is just like eating a regular sandwich.

The 6th graders in Paw Paw Middle School are learning about Quote Sandwiches. We are learning about quote sandwiches, because it is a high school and college strategy. We work with them when we are writing a summary of a book, or movie. We mostly use quote sandwiches in L.A. class. Quote sandwiches benefit us too. The way it benefits us is that it is a writing strategy that allows us to organize our writing. It also helps you put your writing in order from first to last. A quote Sandwich is a organising strategy that goes like this: "Introduce it", "Quote it", and 'Explain it". The "Introduce it" section is where you introduce what you are going to write about. The "Quote it" section is where you write an important quote on that topic. The "Explain it" section is where you explain the importance of the quote, (why that quote is important). The Quote section is really the most important part of the Quote sandwich, you can learn a lot about people from quotes. It is linked to literacy because it is a strategy that you can use in highschool and college. The Quote Sandwich makes us extra special because it is a high level thinking strategy that we learned at a young age. The Quote Sandwich is the super summary saver!



# R

## **Reteach Tuesday/ Advisory**

As I turn the corner I see the Reteach Tuesday page on the wall, as I walk over I see my name isn't highlighted. The list helps remind us if we go to a certain teacher's room to work. Students work in small groups to do makeup work, retake a test, or do enrichment activities. If we need help on a subject that teacher will pull us to his/her room, otherwise we go to the cafeteria during Advisory. It is between 6th and 7th hour, a time that we can work on homework, other activities, and read silently. To learn more about Reteach Tuesday I interviewed Mrs. Patzkowsky. She said that Reteach Tuesday helps kids get better grades and enjoy school more. Research proves that kids who like school have a better attendance rate. Our school thinks Reteach Tuesday helps build healthy behaviors because it exercises getting our work done as soon as possible instead of procrastinating. Reteach Tuesday/Advisory makes Paw Paw Middle School stand out, because not every school gives kids a chance to improve grades or work on homework during school hours. After learning all of this I really thought Reteach Tuesday was more than it seems, like how a bruise seems like a little thing when it is really a vein that has been burst.

**WOKE UP THIS MORNING  
THINKING IT WAS MONDAY**



**REALIZED IT WAS  
ACTUALLY TUESDAY**

quickmeme.com



## Student Council

I walked into my advisory class and saw a note on the board that said the words Student Council, and I thought, what's Student Council? Student Council is a completely student run organization. They have meetings every month, at 7am, on Thursdays before school. They organize fun events for the students benefit. Ms. Fortin, the Student Council Advisor, tries to let the students have complete control over the meetings and the events they hold. One of their biggest events is the senior dinner. Another event they hold, possibly the biggest, is the activity night. They set up a game in every classroom, and you can win tickets to put in a drawing to win huge prizes like a flat screen TV! Because Student Council is completely student run, the students learn to be more independent. This lets Student Council plan fun events that matter to everyone!

# STUDENT COUNCIL

SPEAK OUT

BE HEARD

MAKE A CHANGE

WE MUST BECOME THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE



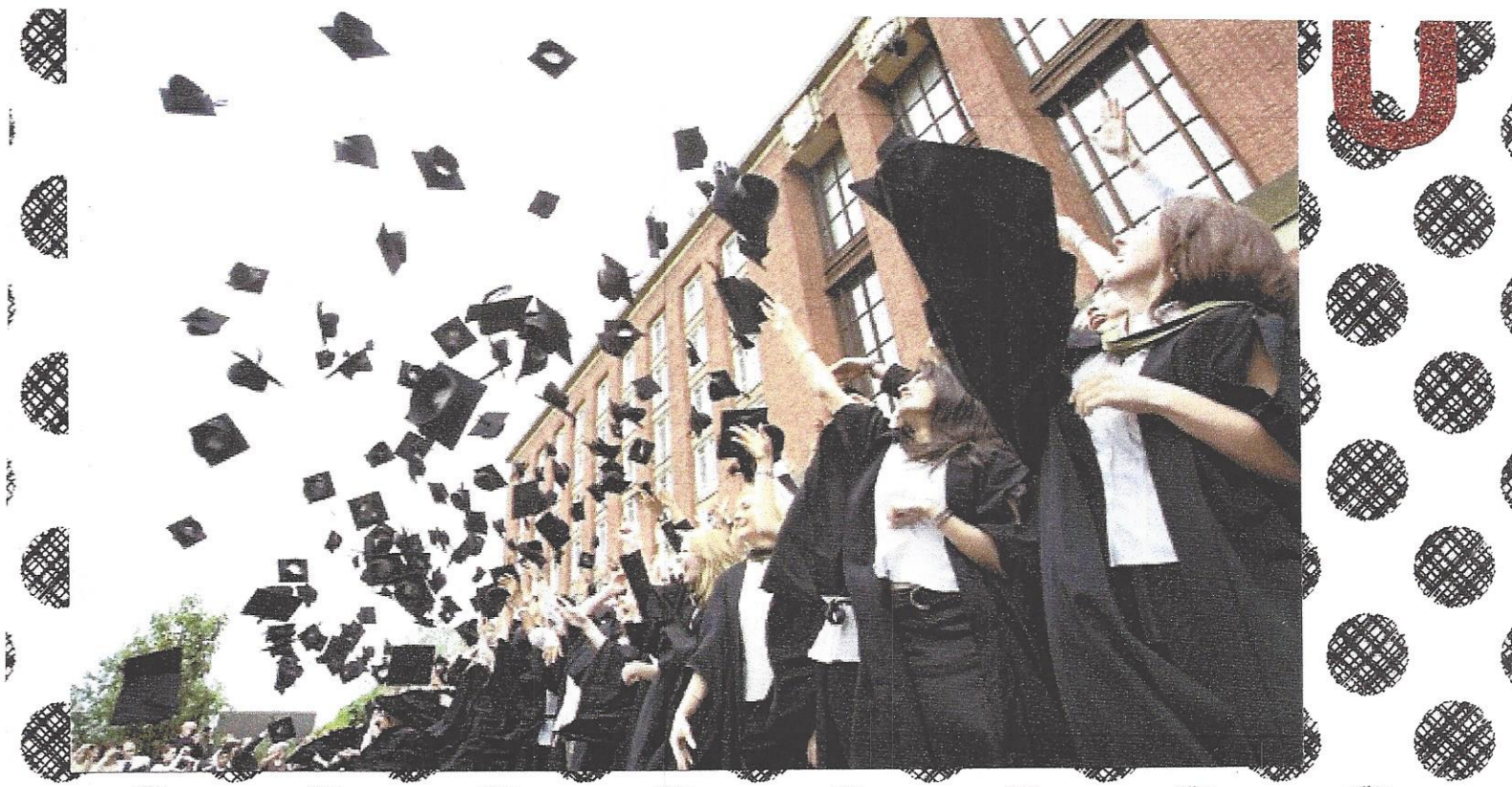
T

## TOLERANCE

**WHEN I WALKED INTO LANGUAGE ARTS CLASS 6TH HOUR, I SAW THE BLACK AND WHITE PLAYERS WIN THE GAME TOGETHER! I THOUGHT "WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY." WE WATCHED THE MOVIE REMEMBER THE TITANS TO LEARN ABOUT TOLERANCE. THE TITANS WERE VERY SUCCESSFUL AND WERE NICE TO EACH OTHER IN THE END EVEN THOUGH THEY HAD DIFFERENT SKIN COLORS. TOLERANCE MEANS ACCEPTING DIFFERENCES AND CHANGING YOURSELF BEFORE YOU CHANGE OTHERS. MRS. WILTGEN, OUR 6TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER SAID "TOLERANCE IS NOT EXPECTING EVERYBODY TO THINK LIKE ME, BE LIKE ME, AND ACT LIKE ME." YOU HAVE TO PRACTICE TOLERANCE JUST LIKE SPORTS SO YOU CAN BE GREAT AT IT. TO DO THIS YOU HAVE TO CHANGE YOURSELF BEFORE YOU CHANGE OTHERS. SHOWING TOLERANCE WILL GET YOU LOOKED UP TO AS A ROLE MODEL AND IT WILL MAKE YOU FEEL GREAT! TOLERANCE MEANS A LOT TO US PAW PAW MIDDLE SCHOOLERS.**

Advice  
Young  
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Forgiveness  
Values  
Experiences  
Gender  
Tolerance  
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Getting  
Direction  
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Youth  
Watch  
Victory  
Losing  
Sharing





### **UNIVERSITY TRIPS**

**As I jumped off the bus at Kalamazoo Valley Community College I saw the giant campus right in front of me, and I thought to myself "I want to go to college some day". At Paw Paw Middle School, 6th grade has the opportunity to visit a college each year, 6th grade goes to KVCC, 7th grade to Kalamazoo college, and 8th goes to WMU. We visit universities to help us plan for our future. our school motto is... "College, career, and community ready"! We get to see what degrees they offer, and the experiences they have. our principal Mr. McDaniel and the PTO pays for the trips.**

**We consider ourselves special because, we are the only school in southwest Michigan that gets the opportunity to go on these kind of trips. our school has 27 college flags hanging up also we have millions of plaques, actually one for each teacher (which is about 35) showing where they went to college. These are to get us thinking about all of the college opportunities we and people all around America have to choose from. By doing this we practice healthy behaviors and citizenship, because it prepares for life's responsibilities.**

**My favorite thing about the trip was that all of the art displays were made from college students. Also I was grateful for our tour guides. they gave up their own time that they could have used to study or help other students, just to give us a tour and show us around the college. As soon as the tour was over myself and everyone else said "thank you" to the tour guide. She was very grateful to hear thanks. After that she waved and said "goodbye". As you can see Paw Paw Middle School is a outstanding place to go to school. I promise if you come to our school you won't be disappointed.**



# V

## Veterans Day

As I walked into the gym and up the bleachers, I saw some local veterans standing down where I was looking and I remember thinking how good all of us americans had it. As Paw Paw middle schoolers to show we care, we spend the day honoring our veterans. Veterans day is not memorial day it a day where the U.S.A. celebrates the people who have served and the people who risk their lives for their families and their country. The veterans have the opportunity to come to Paw Paw Middle School and walk to the classes with their kids or grandkids. We provide breakfast before school in the media center for all visiting veterans. If you brought a family member, who served in the war, you had the opportunity to eat with them. During our advisory we went to an assembly to honor our veterans. At the assembly the 6th grade choir sang the national anthem and the veterans loved it. One of the veterans shared his memories, I remember what I thought and how I felt when he said " As I crept up the mountain, gun in my hand ready to fire, all of a sudden i heard a blasting boom from afar. If I stopped for nearly 1 minute longer I would have been blown to bits." After the assembly Mr. Mcdaniel talked to us for a little bit about his adventure in the army and then we went back to our 7th hour class. This day is special because we worked together as a community to honor our local veterans. we not only had visiting veterans, but we also wrote to injured ones that could not be here on this special day. That shows some true citizenship!





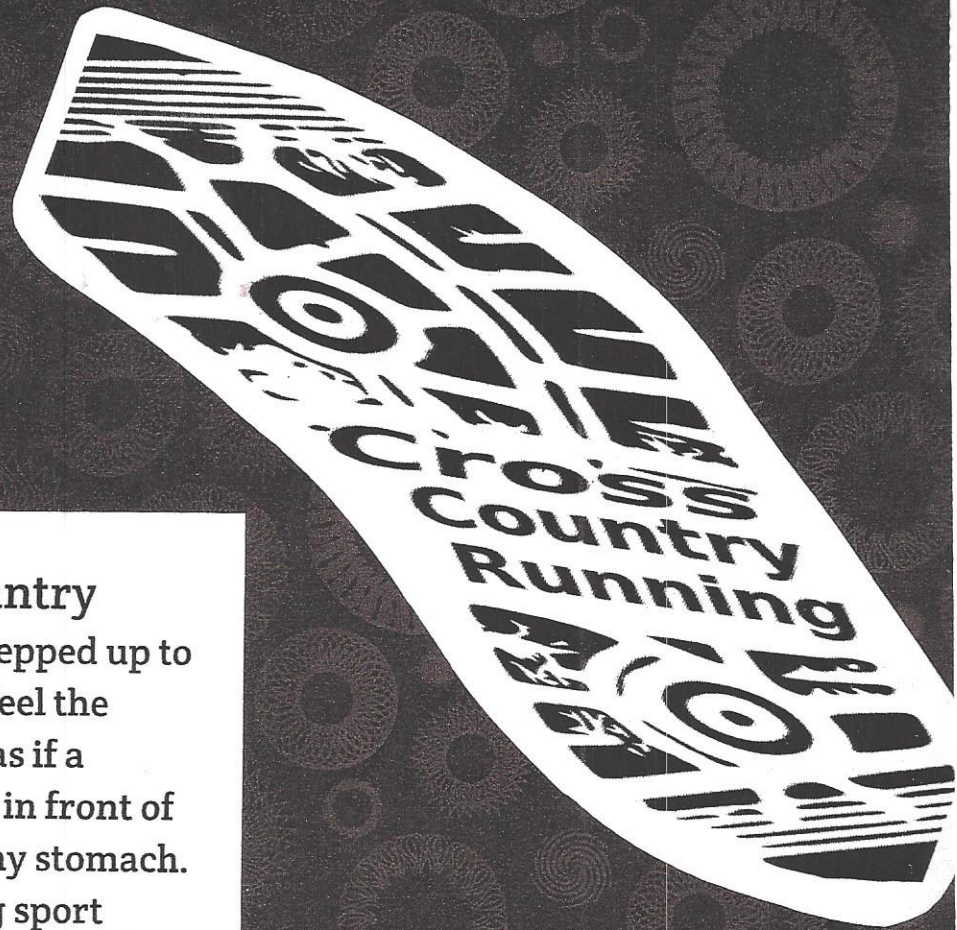
### The Winter Games

As I stood in the snow with frozen feet, all I saw was white, and I thought to myself "we are going to crush the other teams". We go outside to the back of the school and start the games. We do it for the bonding experience with our friends. We play the games on February 12th. The games take place close to the playground. The winter games are for 6th graders only. We play tug of war, build snow towers, review the school year, and try to find ice cubes in the snow. The winter games promote healthy behaviors around the school, because students get to exercise. They also improve our citizenship by having students get together to play games. The winter games are special, because how often do you see other schools with kids having fun in the winter?





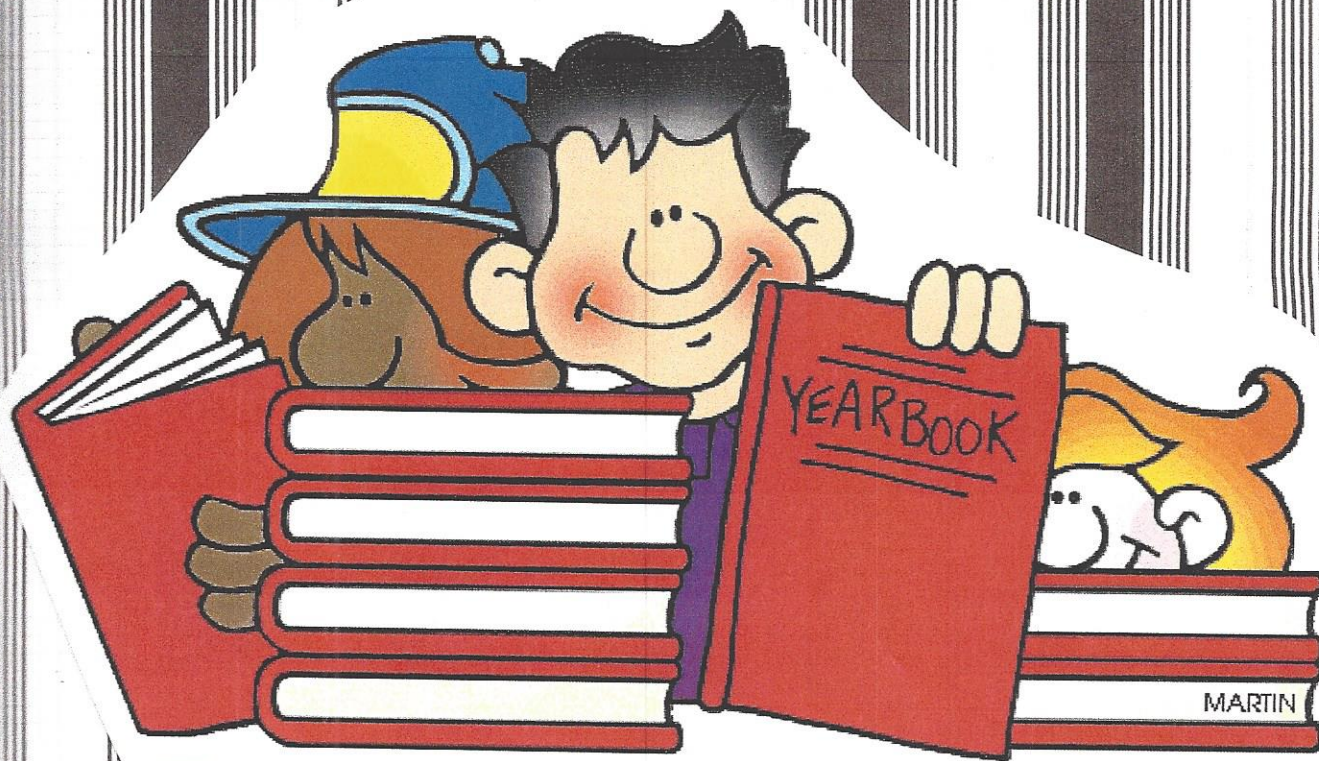
# X



## XC/Cross Country

As I tied my shoes and stepped up to the starting line I could feel the blazing heat on my face as if a volcano erupted directly in front of me. I had butterflies in my stomach. Cross Country is a spring sport coached by Matt Kovach, and it is held after school for any Paw Paw Middle School student. When you are running you will run on a trail behind the middle school and through the town. Cross Country benefits PPMS because it is a healthy behavior for the students. It is a proven fact that Cross Country gives you a 33% less chance of getting ill. It is also a proven fact that cross country helps reduce the obesity rate, diabetes, and it can reduce high blood pressure. Another thing Cross Country can do is improve your sleep habits. Cross Country is an important activity at Paw Paw Middle school, because it helps the students stay healthy and fit.





## Yearbook Club

I walked into the cafeteria and saw a sign on the bulletin board that said, “come join the yearbook club sign up now” and I thought to myself, hmm that sounds super cool, I think I will join. The yearbook club is a club at Paw Paw Middle School in Mrs. Vandermolens room in the seventh grade hallway. Anyone can join the yearbook club from 6th grade to 8th grade. The students meet together once a week to share ideas of what they got. They take pictures of events in and out of school like the parties after school, the winter games, events, clubs, etc.

The yearbook club helps students with citizenship by, making sure all of the students have an equal opportunity to be in the yearbook. They work so hard to get the yearbook ready at the end of the school year. Here at Paw Paw Middle School we let our students make the yearbook by taking the pictures and designing the yearbook. All of the students in the yearbook club have so much fun working together as a group to make the yearbook more awesome than last year. This club is as cool as a ice cube, since it gives the students a chance to do that work and put in their ideas to represent the school.



# Z

## Zero Tolerance For Bullying

Have you ever been bullied? Have you ever seen anyone get bullied? Even worse are you a bully? Well, it's brutal! It is like being bitten by a shark about a million times! If you have seen it happen I'm sure it wasn't at Paw Paw Middle School! Studies show that 14% of students have considered suicide and 7% have attempted it. To prevent this, there is zero tolerance for bullying in school at PPMS. You may see some staff or students wearing no bullying t-shirts on special days, and there are anti bullying signs in and out of classrooms. We have interviewed Mrs. Taylor for more info on the project. If you are bullied or saw bullying, you fill out a pink slip which will get right to Mrs. Taylor ASAP. All people involved are called to speak with Mrs. Taylor so the problem is solved. It is a big middle school issue, and unfortunately many students deal with it alone, making it a bigger issue. "when and where do we do this?", you may ask. Well, it is a 24 hour program and we will never surrender to bullying! Everyone in the school can help, just by filling out pink sheets and not being bullies! If you have never witnessed or been a victim to bullying, you are very lucky! That is because bullying is like animal abuse, nobody wants it, nobody likes it, and people are always trying- and often failing- to end it. At PPMS we are lucky, because we have the cure!

**STOP  
BULLYING  
NOW**

**STAND UP • SPEAK C**



Mariah Bradley  
Caralyn Deming  
Thomas Briggs  
Macey Imus  
Caleb Bowen  
Kaitlyn  
Julia Bruzman  
Molly French  
Justin Lang  
John Hatt  
Josh Reithman  
Jackson Kaniainen  
Taryn Welling  
Sammy S.  
Matthew  
Anthony Carr  
MADDY V.  
Kaylei Luce  
Peyton Long  
Mary Bush  
Mchayla  
Maurana

Madison Plangger  
Hannah Richmond  
Savanna Lamb  
Ely Wharton  
Dylan Mack  
Jack Habra  
Reagan Bowen  
Aaron Lyles  
Ellie Curry  
Reed Sheldon  
Carli Owens  
Dylan Werther  
Valerie Wharton  
Tyler Wraschel  
Eli Jones  
Cally Miller

4th Hour  
Alison Austin  
Kessiah Barr  
Maggie Crawford  
Caleb Dechen  
Lydia Merrill  
Caleb Vanderveen  
Carly Holter  
Dylan Volker  
Jaden Hamilton  
Michael Hartman  
Hadley McKroy  
Mary McGraw  
Keara Mayer  
Breeana Gallagher  
Jenna Niles  
Amber Williams  
Sam Richmond  
Alex Moreno  
Bean Ruppless  
Joe Villanueva

5th Hour  
Cillian Fisher  
Lily Ghiatti  
Jessica Jackson  
Dylan Fisk  
AJ Flanders  
Branden Larve  
Alex Leonard  
Alex Morrison  
Haylee Mearring  
Nathanial McCloskey  
Morgan Taylor  
Finlay Tate  
Blaise Ralston  
Colo Mercie  
Sydney Garman  
Ashley Vandusson  
Joey He  
Clayton Graybeal  
Joseph Grubbske  
Anthony I. Gonzalez  
Cup  
Mia

6th Hour  
Olby Nichols  
Amber Coles  
Israel Ramirez  
Kaini Bartlett  
Sander Karcis  
Zachary Dooley  
Alex Medina  
Olivia Stanek  
Majay Weeden  
Nikki Totiver!  
Will Marshall  
Justin Baird  
Rebecca Stratton  
Nicholas Johnson  
Mason Johnson  
Malik Iwnfield  
Auzjah

7th Hour  
Emily Foster  
Austin Johnson  
Hannah Beggs  
Ashleigh Kerr  
Gabe Brown  
Marie Bennett  
Jacob Bell  
Lucas Schincariol  
Aidan O'Connor  
Katie Wierenga  
Jacob Doan  
Collin Eisen  
Mikayla Williford  
Gabiella Diaz  
Jordan Quinones  
Kate Whitman  
Sara Matheny  
Abbie McLoughlin  
Kate Nelson  
Xander Craddock  
Raelyn DeGroot  
Zoe Turk  
Madelyn Buck  
Landon Meisner



