



Spring 2011



MSD Wayne Township

# HOSTS Herald



## Volunteering is a Family Affair

Ginger Purvlicis, HOSTS Instructor for North Wayne Elementary, brings a special appreciation for the role of volunteerism in the workplace. As Gift Shop Manager for 15 years at St. Vincent Hospital, she relied on over 40 volunteers a week to keep the doors open and the customers happy! Ginger is in her first year with HOSTS and her love for the program is evident in her energy and enthusiasm!

Although Ginger's job description has changed – facilitating learning – the approach remains the same: it can't be done without the dedicated efforts of kind-hearted, loyal volunteers! At North Wayne, several of the mentors also happen to be members of the same family. There's the Bray family, with mom, JoAnne, and twin daughters, Michelle and Marchelle. Floyd Bernhardt and his daughter-in-law, Ann, have also joined the HOSTS family. New this year are Jeanne May and daughter, Amy Stephanoff. The largest contingent, though, is the Huff family, including Alicia, who has home-schooled her three children, Andrea, Rachel and Michael. This mother and her children are committed to volunteering until each of them graduate from high school and move on to college.

In truth, every mentor is part of one big family. They are connected by the belief that every student can become a better reader. Through their efforts, this is becoming a reality. Congratulations!



The Bray family, Michelle, JoAnne, and Marchelle



Ginger Purvlicis with Michael, Rachel, Alice, and Andrea Huff

## Mrs. Weaver's Neighborhood



Mrs. Weaver with some Chapel Glen mentors



Mrs. Weaver and two of her Chapel Glen students

She may not be starring in a PBS children's show, but Joyce Weaver, HOSTS Instructor at Chapel Glen Elementary, may just change out of her sneakers and into her sweater when she arrives each morning! That's because she lives in the Chapel Glen neighborhood surrounding the school, and she could simply walk to work if she chose.

This is Joyce's first year in the position, but she is no stranger to Chapel Glen Elementary. Her four children attended there, and she has volunteered at school in a wide range of capacities, such as Destination Imagination Coordinator and Cub and Boy Scout Leader. Acclimating to her HOSTS duties was made easier since she was already familiar with the staff, the building, and the school-wide procedures.

Mrs. Weaver reports some interesting facts about the makeup of the Chapel Glen mentor pool. 25% of these mentors leave their places of employment to attend their session and then return to work. Another 20% are retired teachers, and 15% live right in the neighborhood!

The word on the street is that you might see some door-to-door recruiting going on in Chapel Glen this summer. The aim is to increase that 15% of volunteers from Mrs. Weaver's neighborhood!

## Meet HOSTS Lead Teachers

### Celebration Time

End of the Year Celebrations are the week of May 9-13 at your HOSTS School



Tammy Butts and Mary Ann Flanary wake up each morning with a common goal, to take the lead as experienced reading teachers for the HOSTS program. Take the lead, how?

One important component of the HOSTS program is to spread the word about the program. In doing so, they present the HOSTS program to businesses, churches, service organizations, and at many other local events.

Mary Ann and Tammy share the responsibility of writing the HOSTS curriculum. They provide instruction and guidance to the instructors weekly and at monthly meetings. At these meetings, Tammy and Mary Ann also keep the instructors informed about future tasks and deadlines. These meetings also provide a time for sharing ideas and stories.



During their weekly visits to each of the schools, they can be found working with the whole group or working one-on-one with students. They read the mentors' comments, listen to the individual students read, and provide suggestions on how to help the students meet their reading goals.

When asked what makes the HOSTS program such a successful reading program, Mary Ann stated, "It's the dedicated HOSTS mentors that volunteer each week to help our students become better readers." Tammy agreed, "We feel fortunate to have so many people wanting to give back to the community. Without them, the HOSTS program would not be where it is today. We are truly blessed to have so many wonderful volunteers!"



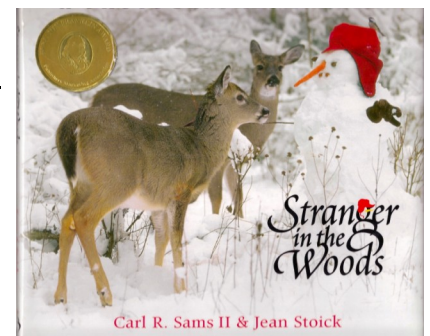
### With a Little Help from Our Friends...

*Gently used books, Campbell's soup labels, and Box Tops for Education are still being collected at all eleven elementary schools. Help us if you can.*

*Thank you!*

## Readers' Theater: A Fun Way to Improve Fluency!

This past winter, the students put on the readers' theater, Stranger in the Woods, for their mentors. Preparing to present a readers' theater can have a powerful result on a student's fluency and self-confidence. The repeated readings of a student's character part enables the student to improve their accuracy, expression, and presentation skills. Students loved learning how to "get into their character part."



### HOSTS begins again

**September 12, 2011**

HOSTS Instructor Shelley Thompson noticed definite growth in certain students. Isaac, who read quickly, now pauses at commas and decodes new words like a champ. Brenda felt too shy to read in front of others. Now she confidently raises her hand to read out loud in groups. Soft spoken Jaekiya read with power and confidence in her voice as her mentors watched the performance.

The students loved performing for their mentors and showing off their reading fluency as they brought the book, Stranger in the Woods, alive with their voices. This powerful tool definitely helps our students build reading fluency and comprehension in a fun, entertaining way.