Every Child, One Voice provides our focus to achieve all of our goals. By establishing strong alliances among the local units, the Administration, Board of Education, Michigan and National PTA, we can impact every student in the Walled Lake School District. Our focus is on the education, health and welfare of all of our students. The purpose of the Walled Lake PTSA Council is to promote communication, leadership development and coordination of local efforts. The Council is the first point of contact for all of our local units to help guide them with any issues that might arise.

Our Objectives are to:

❖ Ensure that we operate in an environment where all are welcomed, where different points of view are heard so that we speak for every child with one voice.

❖ Rally support on key legislative issues that impact our students by providing information in a way that is easily understood, viewed as important and help provide tools for parents to take action.

❖ Provide support and guidance to local units on PTA matters by reaching out to units and being a valuable resource for them.

The Michigan PTA

The Walled Lake PTSA Council and all of its units are part of the Michigan PTA whose mission is to mobilize the forces of school, home and community to ensure a quality education and nurturing environment for every child.

The National PTA

The overall mission of PTA is to provide a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child. The PTA’s Vision is to make every child’s potential a reality. The Values of the PTA transcend to each unit. They are: Collaboration; Commitment; Accountability; Respect; Inclusivity and Integrity. This child advocacy organization has focused on children’s issues for more than 110 years. Every person who joins the PTA in a local Walled Lake District school automatically becomes a member of the Michigan and National PTA. Each unit has one voting member who becomes part of the Walled Lake PTSA Council.
Each year the PTSA Council recognizes those individuals who have truly made a difference in the lives of our students. Their commitment to our students is never ending. They demonstrate every day that they are truly examples of what PTA is all about – an organization that is devoted to all students, that focuses on their education and the funds and tools necessary to provide an education and to improve the quality of life for all children.

**ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR:** Charles Morgan  
Principal, Walled Lake Central High School

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD:** Michelle Bianco  
Executive Director, Foundation for Excellence

**MERIT AWARD:** Tony Casanova  
Parent, Keith Elementary

**COUNCIL MEMBER OF THE YEAR:** Milissa Straka  
PTSA Council Treasurer  
Jennifer Ludwig  
PTSA Council Vice President

**COUNCIL HONORARY LIFE MEMBER:** Kathy Lyall  
Past President, WLCSD Board of Education

On behalf of the entire Walled Lake School District Community, we thank these outstanding leaders in our community for their countless hours spent focusing on the needs of Walled Lake students. They are true examples of what PTA is all about. For those who are leaving or retiring, we wish them well in the next chapter of their lives. You have all made a positive difference in the lives of our children.
Walled Lake PTSA Council 2018-19

Executive Board
President Jackie Gurwin
Vice President Jennifer Ludwig
Vice President Kathy Gruzas
Recording Secretary Sarah Piggott
Corresponding Secretary Shayna Levin
Treasurer Milissa Straka

Standing Committee Chairs
Administrative Liaison Judy Evola
School Board Liaison Rotating Board Members
Teacher Representative Kim Quinn-Haver

Committee Chairs
Candle Shayna Levin
Directory Jennifer Ludwig
Installations and Awards Sarah Banks Middle School
Irene Daniels Scholarship Kim Quinn-Haver
Reflections Katie Bardocz
## PTSA Council Award History

### Council Honorary Life Memberships
2019  Kathy Lyall  
2018  Alec Bender  
2017  Stephanie Kaplan  
2014  Nancy Scott  
2013  Dennis Graham  
         Tabitha Stasie  
2012  Vickie Banyash  
         George Culbert  
2011  Denise Bither  
         Peggy Hawke  
2010  Nancy Van Leuwen  
2009  Dr. Michael Beauchamp  
         Patricia Parrett  

### Council Distinguished Service Awards
2019  Michelle Bianco  
2018  Liza Sovel  
2015  Barb Sprunk  
2014  Timothy Lynch Jr.  
         Stephanie Kaplan  
2013  Michael Gustitis  
2012  Therese Livermore & Nancy Scott  
2011  Susan Schreiber & Nancy Yest  
2010  Erica Kochevar  
2009  Margaret Hawke & Tabitha Stasie  

### Council Member of the Year
2019  Milissa Straka  
         Jennifer Ludwig  
2018  Judy Evola  
2017  Sharyn Gallatin  
2015  Jennie Jungman  
2014  Nina Dewicki  
         Lisa Williams  
2013  Timothy Lynch Jr.  
         Stephanie Kaplan  
2012  Janette Ulmer  
2011  Cathy Warren  
2010  Tabitha Stasie  
2009  Denise Bither  

### Council Merit Awards
2019  Tony Casanova  
2018  Amy Stasak  
2017  Christopher Titus & Nancy Van Leuwen  
2016  Dan Durkin & Matt Weber  
2015  Dawn Fuhrwerk  
2012  Nancy Powers & Sue Siegal  
2011  Therese Livermore & Tabitha Stasie  
2010  Mark Hess, Beth Hudspeth & Liza Sovel  
2009  Nancy Van Leuwen & Nancy Scott
PTSA Council Administrator of the Year History

2019  Charles Morgan  Principal – Walled Lake Central High School
2018  Patrick Cavanaugh, Ph. D  Principal – Walnut Creek Middle School
       Michael Gustitus  Assistant Principal – Walnut Creek Middle School
2017  Brad Paddock  Principal – Sarah Banks Middle School
2016  Jill Segal  Transportation Supervisor, Walled Lake Schools
2015  Stuart Riley  Director, Walled Lake Schools Outdoor Education Center
2014  William Chatfield  Director of Operations – Walled Lake Schools
2013  Joe Bell  Principal – Western High School
2012  Michelle Fiebke-Lang  Principal – Maple Elementary
       Jeff Drewno  Principal – Twin Beach Elementary
2011  Mindy Moe Kouris  Principal – Clifford Smart Middle School
2010  Linda Day  Principal – Walled Lake Elementary
2009  Colleen Sturgill  Principal – James Geisler Middle School
2008  Sandra Motz  Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
2007  Marilyn Nieman  Transportation Supervisor
2006  Dr. Sheryl Brown  Principal – Walled Lake Elementary
2005  Mark Hess  Principal – Banks Middle School
2004  Judy Evola  Director of Community Relations
2003  Lawrence Barlow  Principal – Western High School
2002  Dr. Michael Beauchamp  Assistant Superintendent
2001  Dr. George Culbert  Principal – Glengary Elementary
2000  Heidi Wilkins  Principal – Walled Lake Elementary
1999  Dr. James Geisler  Superintendent
1998  Dr. Steven Gaynor  Assistant Superintendent
1997  Dr. William Hamilton  Assistant Superintendent
1996  Scott Little  Principal – Banks Middle School
1995  Andy Dale  Principal – Pleasant Lake Elementary
1994  Alec Bender  Parenting Fair Coordinators
       Henry McCurry
1993  Richard Smith  Principal – Central High School
1992  Lois Lange  Director of Community Relations and Personnel
1991  Dr. Hugh Davies  Assistant Superintendent
1990  Marcia Scarr  Principal – Maple Elementary
1989  Beverly Rentschler  Central Administrator
Each year, the Walled Lake PTSA Council grants three scholarships. A high school senior from each of the high schools is awarded $750.00. In remembrance of Mrs. Irene Daniels, an active parent volunteer at Twin Beach Elementary, this scholarship was established to encourage success at the post-secondary level. Through an application process, the committee looks for students who have demonstrated a commitment to service and scholastic involvement. Like Mrs. Daniels, these three seniors make the world a better place by serving others. This year’s recipients were chosen because they met all of the criteria of the scholarship, including membership in PTSA. They also demonstrated the key ideals of the Irene Daniels Scholarship. They are academically capable, involved, and caring students who give back to others.

Sitting on this year’s selection committee were Mrs. Melissa Hildreth, Smart MS teacher; Mrs. Tracey Lamey, Central parent; Mr. Chris Titus, WL School Board; Mrs. Marci Augenstein, Keith Elementary Principal, Mrs. Christine Titus, Hickory Woods teacher.

The committee congratulates all the applicants on their dedication as students, and we congratulate those who were chosen for this honor. These students are very likely to be future PTA leaders.

**Irene Daniels Scholarship Award Recipients**

*Megan Coden*, Central High School – University of Michigan  
*Hannah Erdman*, Northern High School – Grand Valley State University  
*Carley DeRoche*, Western High School – Michigan State University
The Commerce Elementary PTA is wrapping up another great year! We started our school year with the unveiling of our new, outdoor pavilion on our playground at our Commerce Comeback event. Our year continued with our most successful Color Run ever and our Fall Fair was a big hit! Our Holiday Craft Night was a ton of fun and we had a great turnout at our free Membership Event where families enjoyed bounce houses and bowling. Our book fairs in the Winter and Spring were our most successful fairs to date and our kids came back from Spring Break to a huge surprise: our new Ninja Warrior Play Structure! Throughout the year, the PTA continued to support our teachers with surprise “sunshine” gifts and we just wrapped up a “super” Staff Appreciation Week. We are excited to conclude our year this year with Field Day and our Backyard BBQ event. The PTA could not provide the support we give to our school without the time and effort of our volunteers and the staff at Commerce Elementary. We are honored to recognize four of these amazing people tonight.

Denise Kaczmarek and Kathy Williams, Michigan Honorary Life Membership
Denise Kaczmarek and Kathy Williams go above and beyond for our Commerce community each and every day. As our amazing secretaries, they do so much more than answer phones or issue tardy slips. Denise and Kathy build positive relationships with children, families, and staff. They dry countless tears, heal recess injuries with magical ice and band-aids, and manage to balance multiple tasks with grace and professionalism. Denise and Kathy truly care about our kids and our families. Without seeking recognition, they quietly buy new shoes for kids who need them. They comfort and reassure anxious kindergarten parents. They provide a safe harbor and resources for families who are having a difficult time. The list goes on and on. Denise and Kathy do their jobs with compassion, empathy, and care. We couldn’t be more grateful for all they do to make our school a special place for kids.

Tracie Duclos, Commerce Elementary Merit Award
Tracie has dedicated herself to Commerce for several long years. She is a constant face in the hallways, always willing to lend a hand in the classroom and at PTA functions. You may find her reading with students, attending field trips, or organizing classroom parties. Tracie also chaired our bagel sale for many years, making sure bagels were ordered and delivered every month. One staff member had this to say about Tracie: “She is a delightful lady who always wears a smile on her face.” Tracie will be greatly missed as she leaves Commerce this year, and we are so thankful for all that she has given to our school.

Shannon Gimple, Commerce Elementary Merit Award
Shannon has been an instrumental part of our school for many years. She has single-handedly chaired both our Hearts-to-You and Shamrocks-to-You fundraisers, collecting orders and assembling treats for our kids. As if that wasn’t enough, she also donated all the items she purchased for these fundraisers, never asking for any reimbursement. She has been an invaluable volunteer in the classroom, helping with classroom parties, attending field trips, and reading with students. Her family even volunteered to prepare the 5th Grade Celebration slideshow this year. Shannon is described as “always willing to go the extra mile”. Shannon’s giving heart will be greatly missed as she leaves Commerce this year, and we are so thankful for all that she has contributed over the years.
The 2018/2019 school year was another fun and successful one! We began the year with our new event for Kindergarteners called Popsicles on the Playground. We invited parents and their incoming kindergartners to meet on our playground so, the kids can play, meet a few of their fellow classmates and also enjoy a popsicle. Parents also had a chance to meet other parents and our PTA was on hand to answer any questions they may have had. We then held our Welcome Back Picnic, where we shared music, and conversation with one another out on the playground. Next came Movie Night, where we all enjoyed Trolls! on the big screen.

Due to the large success we had last year, we once again held our cookie dough fundraiser in the fall, raising more than $15,000 this year! In October, back by popular demand we held our Halloween Boo Bash! Held at Clifford Smart, we had almost 600 people there enjoying games, a costume contest, crafts, and a fun DJ who kept everyone busy with music and dancing.

Following Boo Bash, we decided to try something new and host a Family Game Night. Families gathered in our Cafeteria where we had various types of games, led by our “Game Gurus” -who were there to help our families learn the rules of each game. There was also an option to order any game so, families could enjoy playing at home. We had a nice turnout and enjoyed watching our families spend quality time together.

January brought Bingo Night, which is always a great time for our families. In February, we held our fourth annual Daddy Daughter Dance, which continues to be a highly anticipated and favorite event at our school. The event was once again held at Clifford Smart and we are so thankful for the huge turnout and the awesome support we received from CHS.

Spring will bring two final events to Dublin. Our Moms and Sons Night Out will take place in May. Due to the fantastic results from last year, we are once again hosting the event at Zap Zone in Waterford. It is sure to be a fun and relaxing night out for all of our Dublin boys and their Moms, as they get the chance to have dinner and play mini golf, laser tag, and arcade games together. We will be ending the year with our big Ice Cream Social, a long-time tradition at Dublin. Games, inflatables, and, of course, ice cream, will help us say goodbye to the school year and hello to summer! It has been another busy, but wonderful year and we are so thankful for such an outstanding and supportive staff, and such amazing and generous parents. We look forward to the 2019/2020 school year!

**Our Award Winner**

**Beth Capp - Distinguished Service Award**

Beth has been a teacher at Dublin for over 25 years. In those years, she has shown tremendous support to the PTA by attending many of our monthly meetings. She has also assisted with passing on information from our meetings, to the rest of our teachers. Beth has played an integral part in helping us achieve 100% Staff Membership for the last few years. We appreciate all her help and support. Thank you, Beth, for all you do for Dublin PTA!
The Glengary Elementary PTA would like to thank our entire Gator community for another amazing year! We started our year off with our annual Fun Run, Raffle and Boys vs Girls Coin challenge which raised over $21,000! The PTA continued to support our staff by purchasing new bulletin boards, Breakout EDU Kits, STEM Robots for the Media Center and upgraded the outdated sound system in the cafeteria. We held our family favorite events such as the Variety Show, Free Family STEAM Night, Free Family Movie Night, Staff Volleyball, Breakfast with a Buddy, Mom/Son Date Night and the very popular Daddy/Daughter Dance. All of our events and contributions are not possible without the hard work of our volunteers. We are very thankful to have such a dedicated Glengary community!

**Heather Burrows – Distinguished Service Award**
Heather has brought great enthusiasm to Glengary from the moment her first child arrived seven years ago. From being a Motor Mom to a Room Mom to a PTA Board Member, there’s not much Heather hasn’t been involved with during her time at Glengary. Heather has been on the PTA Board for the past six years, serving as PTA President for the past four years. Heather has spearheaded committees such as the Walking Track which raised $40,000 in just eight short months for the construction of our community walking track, Funds2Orgs which collected over 3,000 pairs of new and gently used shoes for those in need, Kindness Rocks program, Girls on the Run, Kindness Gives programs and the Read-A-Thon. Heather’s drive, enthusiasm and passion creates successful and exciting events throughout the school year. Heather has dedicated countless hours to the Glengary PTA and will be greatly missed next year!

**Amy Fry – Merit Award**
Amy has been on the PTA Board for the past three years. She is currently serving as Recording Secretary and will take on PTA President next year! Amy spends countless hours organizing events such as Breakfast with a Buddy, Kindergarten Orientation and the Fun Run. Amy created our Glengary PTA Website and worked tirelessly upgrading our Literacy Room. Amy is someone you want on your team no matter the task at hand! She is a tremendous asset to our school and we look forward to many more years with Amy at the helm!!

**Sarah Jane Regan – Merit Award**
Sarah beautifies our school with her amazing art work and bulletin board creations! She is super talented and creative! Sarah is one of those parents who is always willing to jump in and help whenever needed. She has volunteered at the Variety Show, Fun Run, Daddy/Daughter Dance and as a Room Parent. This is Sarah’s last year at Glengary. Her giving heart will be greatly missed!

**Emily Spoutz – Distinguished Service Award**
Over the past several years, the Glengary Gators have always been able to count on Emily. She started out as a room parent and hasn’t stopped. Emily volunteers her time and efforts at every single PTA event! We can find her working in the kitchen, backstage at the Variety Show, running around at the Staff Volleyball or clicking away at the cash register at the Book Fair. Emily coaches Girls on the Run and is a member of our PTA Board. Emily is all things Glengary PTA and we look forward to her contributions next year!
Honorary Lifetime Award - Brandi Brendtke
From the moment her boys started Guest when they were in 4th and 1st grade, Brandi Brendtke has been a very active member of our Guest PTA. She has served as our Health and Wellness Chair for several years, including this year while also serving as the PTSA President at Geisler. She has helped with our Run Club and took over as the chair this year. She recently pulled off an extremely successful Dream Walking Track Fundraiser, earning the school a portion of the money we need to build a playground walking track. Brandi chaired our Staff Appreciation several times and has always been a huge supporter of the week long events. She has assisted with the Fall Color Run and Spring Carnival, continually willing to lend a hand or take on extra tasks. This is her last year at Guest and she will be greatly missed as her youngest moves on to middle school. We would like to award Brandi Brendtke and Honorary Life Membership for all she has done.

Merit Award - Vikki Anderson
It is hard to believe that Vikki Anderson has served as a member and on the PTA board since her now 8th grade daughter was in kindergarten. We thank Vikki for her numerous years as our PTA treasurer, single-handedly keeping all of our finances in perfect order. She understands and follows all PTSA budget rules to a tee and provides knowledgeable answers to our many monetary questions. This year she also held the treasurer position at Geisler Middle School! We are presenting Vikki Anderson with a Merit Award for her long-time dedication to our school. We appreciate all of her contributions and continued support.

Merit Award - Beth Polinsky
Beth Polinsky has brought many new activities to our Guest Community. She runs our dining to donate program, cookie dough sales, and spoils the Guest Elementary staff during Staff Appreciation Week. Beth is very organized and dedicated. She plays an integral role in making sure all details has been covered. We appreciate her dedication and look forward to many more years of her service.

Distinguished Service - Monica House
Monica House is truly amazing. She is definitely a forward thinker and has the courage to challenge the status quo to make necessary changes that benefit children. Her passion and devotion to support students and staff is immeasurable. Monica’s legacy will be the implementation of Therapy Dogs in every school in Walled Lake. She knows the positive impact Therapy Dogs have on students and adults and will not waiver until her mission is accomplished. You can always count on Monica to work tirelessly, advocating for children. She is a true superhero and we are blessed that she is a part of the Walled Lake Schools District.

Distinguished Service - Andrea Novak
Andrea Novak is a truly dedicated and delightful presence at Mary Helen Guest. She goes above and beyond with her teaching, artistic talents, commitment, and service to our school. Mrs. Novak makes our hallways look beautiful! She not only displays student art in creative ways, but helps to create memorable bulletin boards and display cases around the school. She hand-selects special student art to go on the “Wall of Stars,” and hosts an event for families to honor these students. She diligently takes photos of student artwork and uploads them to Artsonia - a website where parents can order prints and gifts featuring their child’s art. Every year, Andrea arranges a 5th grade field trip to the Detroit Institute of Arts. And this school year, she brought the DIA to us! Every student got to experience the “DIA Away,” where the DIA parks a special trailer right outside of the school. Mrs. Novak also contributes to our school by serving as a co-advisor of Student Council. She donates her time to help student council members plan and execute events such as “spirit week” and the “pancake dinner/auction” - both of which raise money to help our school and community. She is committed to helping students be leaders in our school - fostering a sense of service that will last them a lifetime. She also serves on the Wildcat Time Planning Committee that creates character-building lessons for the entire school. Andrea is always willing to lend a hand (or a hot glue gun!) whenever she is needed. Thank you for all you do for us at Mary Helen Guest!

Distinguished Service - Nancy Morse
It is with pleasure that I recommend Nancy Morse for the Distinguished Service Award. Nancy is an integral part of the Mary Helen Guest Family. She’s someone that you can always count on and on the rare occasion that we don’t have anything for her to do, she’ll find something. Nancy is always there when we need her and goes above and beyond expectations every time. You always get the feeling that she is happy to be here and takes a genuine interest in all of us at MHG. She is adored by staff and students alike. We don't call her “Grandma Nancy” for nothing!
The Hickory Woods Elementary PTA would like to thank the entire HWE family for another fantastic year. Without the help our board, committees, members, staff and great volunteers we truly could not have accomplished as much as we did. We are extremely proud of the programs and events we are able to fund, and support, because of the level of involvement we have from our families. While we have countless helping hands that deserve recognition, we are proud to honor the following parents for their generous contributions:

**Distinguished Service Award**

**Alex Cortez**

Alex runs our All-Pro Dads  
He coordinates meetings to share ideas with others  
He is someone we can count on to gather a group of people to work  
He's great at corralling all of the dads and even some of the mothers  
He's such a hard worker  
He inspires others to do the same  
If you have an idea and need his help  
Just ask him, he's always game!

**Honorary Lifetime Membership**

**Kavita Namjoshi**

This is Kavita's last year at HWE  
We will miss her smiling face  
She is always willing to lend a helping hand  
You are sure to find her at each event at our place  
She's been the VP for two years  
She runs committees and oversees them too  
Kavita you will certainly be missed  
We are not sure what we will do without you!
Keith Elementary 2018-2019 PTSA Awards

Leigh Shemenski – Honorary Lifetime Member:
Leigh has had an incredible influence on the Keith Elementary PTA. Leigh will be greatly missed as she moves on to the middle school and high school. For two years Leigh was a diligent Treasurer completing not only her duties, but also helping others in the PTA and school as needed. She also has been a co-Chair of the Book Fair. Where the Book Fair continued to thrive as one of the top selling Book Fairs in the state. Last year it received national recognition while she was co-chairing as well. In her final year at Keith Elementary Leigh has taken on the role of President. She has proven once again that she is a true leader and is always trying to make Keith the best place to be. Her countless hours of time dedicated to the school will be greatly missed. She always has a smile and is willing to help other PTA members, teachers, staff, and parents with anything she can. We wish her all the best as she continues on and know other PTAs will be lucky to have her.

Elizabeth Belcher – Distinguished Service Award:
Elizabeth has given countless hours of her time to Keith Elementary. She started our Keith Community Garden in 2013 and works with each grade every year planting seeds and teaching the students about gardening. She also helps run Keith Green Club, runs activities for Earth Day (collecting thousands of plastic bags to recycle), and runs Taste of the Garden at Movie night, where she uses harvested product from the garden and parents make different foods for the students and parents to eat. She has chaired our book fair, ran Eat a Rainbow Week, and volunteered in her children’s classroom. Elizabeth will be missed at Keith as her kids move on to middle school. We can’t thank her enough!

Heather Hiligan – Distinguished Service Award:
Heather has been involved at Keith since her oldest was in kindergarten and has been here for more than 10 years! She was VP of Operations for the PTA for the past two years in which she helped run our Fun Run, worked numerous hours on the book fair with the co-chairpersons and helped with our Boo Hoo/Wahoo breakfast. She volunteers in her children’s classrooms and has helped as room parent also. She helps at nearly all PTA events and always has a smile on her face. When she isn’t subbing at the school, she is in most mornings helping out in some way, shape or form from making copies to walking students to their classroom. She is a huge asset to Keith Elementary and luckily has a couple more years at Keith! Thanks for all you have done!

Katie Mobley – Distinguished Service Award:
Katie started on the PTA as Membership Chair last year and this year she took on the role of Treasurer. Besides spending time in the class rooms helping teachers and being a room parent, she has co-chaired the book fair for the last two years and has spent numerous hours decorating, working all day at the book fair and at all book fair events in the evening. She volunteers at most PTA events and activities like Popsicles with the Principal, Staff Appreciation week, family dance and many more. We appreciate Katie’s dedication to the Keith PTA, students and staff and we our thankful that she will also be here a couple of more years! Thank you, Katie!

Jen Ostroff – Merit Award:
Jen has been so great in writing grants for Mi Green Schools and has gotten the Evergreen Award every year she has written it. She has won numerous Best and Brightest in Wellness award for Keith. The Best and Brightest in Wellness celebrates quality and excellence in health awareness and we have won the award many times. She has written a Whole Kids Foundation grant for Keith and this year Keith has won $2000 from the Whole Foods grant. That money will be invested in our Keith garden. We thank Jen for all her hard work and dedication to the health and wellness at Keith Elementary.

Mary Beth Johnson – Merit Award:
Mary Beth has volunteered in her children’s classes and has prepared and served food at our Taste of the Garden, helped make pumpkin smoothies from pumpkins harvested from our Keith garden. She helped with Math Club for a few years and two years ago she volunteered to run Math Club for our students. Math Club met once a week and learned to play games and at the end of the year they used these skills to participate in a math pentathlon tournament. She also organized a Math Club breakfast where students and their parents could celebrate another great year. We thank her so much for volunteering at Keith Elementary!
We are happy to present Loon Lake’s Secretary, Sheryl Petruno, with a *Distinguished Service Award* for the time, effort, and dedication she puts in to helping Loon Lake and the PTA. Sheryl is a helping hand who is happy to lend assistance with whatever is needed. Whether it is placing an order for items needed, communicating information to parents, or donating her time at school, Sheryl is always right there with a smile on her face, ready to help. She does a great deal of behind the scenes work to help make our PTA events run smoothly. Sheryl is a Go-To person for the community and does an outstanding job promoting PTA events and activities. Thank you for everything you do, Sheryl! We are so lucky to have you working with us. We appreciate you and your dedication to Loon Lake.

**Joanne Roth** is being presented with a *Merit Award* for her hard work and dedication the last four years serving as Loon Lake PTA’s Treasurer. Joanne has worked well with PTA board members and parents to make sure that everything is always in order when it comes to our budgets and reimbursement. We would like to thank Joanne for willingness to step up and fill this sometimes-difficult position for the past four years. We will miss her as part of our team next year.

**Becky Moericke** is being presented with a *Merit Award* for all the hard work she puts in every month organizing and executing our popcorn days at school as well as taking on the new task of chairing Loon Lake’s Staff Appreciation Week. Becky is always one of the first to sign up and volunteer for any event, whether it is to bake and donate some of her delicious treats, or man a station at an event. Thank you for your willingness to always step up and help our kids and our staff.
Meadowbrook Elementary School

2018-2019 Executive Board

President: Missy Pereny
VP of Operations: Amy Foote
Secretary: Megan Wright
Treasurer: Sarah Piggott
Community Liaison: Sarah D’Agostino
Fundraising Chairperson: Andrea Sullivan
Membership Chairperson: Andrea Sullivan
Volunteer Coordinator: Violet Yaldo
Reflections Chair: Sarah D’Agostino
Manjiri Dani

Michigan Honorary Life Membership

The Meadowbrook family would like to honor Sarah Piggott with a Life Membership in recognition of her countless years as PTA President and the hundreds of hours she and her family have dedicated to our school over the years. Meadowbrook would not be the inspiring and exciting place it is today without Sarah’s vision and guidance.

Merit Awards

A deep appreciation and recognition goes to Andrea Sullivan (Membership & Fundraising Chair) and Megan Wright (Secretary & Fundraising Chair) for all of their countless hours of service to our PTA. Each one of these ladies bring their own spirit into our organization and work tirelessly to make sure our students, families and staff have a wonderful year at Meadowbrook. Their efforts make our group a fun, forward thinking, and passionate team. Without these ladies our events and programs would not be as successful as they are and will continue to be.

~A Special Note~

Thank you to the entire 2018-2019 executive board and committee volunteers for your dedicated service to our organization. We have accomplished so much this year. We have been able to provide many great opportunities for our families and for that we should all be very proud to be Meadowbrook Mustangs.
Oakley Park Elementary School is proud to present the *Distinguished Service Award* to **Nora Ashoo**. Not only is Nora a dedicated member of the Oakley Park staff, but she is also an active member of the PTA. For two years, Nora showed great leadership as our Reflections Chair working with parents and staff to coordinate “Art Nights” and celebration receptions. It is our good fortune that we will still be able to work with Nora as a staff member at Oakley Park after this year, but wanted to acknowledge and thank her for the commitment she has shown as an OPE parent as well. Thank you, Nora.

**Simone Hock** is one of our most active and dependable parent volunteers. She is always on hand to help supervise a station at Science Night, chaperone on field trips, help at the Book Fair, as well as spend at least a couple hours a week in the media center re-shelving books or helping make copies for the teachers. For these reasons we are pleased to present her with the *Distinguished Service Award*. Her willingness to take on any task and her obvious dedication to her son will be greatly missed. Thank you for all your hard work Simone.

Our final award goes to former OPE PTA President **Kimberly Blaine**. Kimberley guided the PTA through a complete restructure during her time as the PTA President. She continued to show her commitment to the students of OPE by leading the Math Club for the past several years as well as donating her time during Teacher Conferences, Spring Fling, and Science Night. In honor of her leadership and dedication to OPE we are pleased to present Kimberly with the *Distinguished Service Award*. 
Pleasant Lake Elementary has had another wonderful year! This year we are honoring:

**Meredith Ben** is receiving the *Distinguished Service Award* tonight. Meredith has been a valuable PTA Board member for the last 2 years. Meredith is at every PTA event helping out wherever she can. Her ability to acquire donations & gifts for PLE's fundraising events is remarkable to say the least. It must be magic. From Autographed Detroit Athletes Portraits to several hundred dollars in gift cards & gifts from local businesses. Her insight & creativity inspire all those around her. She has been a teacher for 20 years, 16 of them have been in the Novi School district teaching 2nd grade. Meredith has a 2nd & 4th grader at PLE & loves volunteering at the school whenever she can. Meredith will be going into her 3rd year as a PTA Board member & we can't wait to see what she comes up with next. Thank you SO MUCH!

Warm, caring, kind, considerate, patient, compassionate. These are all words that barely scratch the surface when it comes to **Christina Bernard**. To give a better idea of the kind of person Christina is, imagine combining all your favorite childhood books into one story & then topping it all off with whipped cream & a cherry on top. That would basically sum up Christina. She has been a teacher for 11 years; the past 2 years have been at PLE as Resource Room Teacher. She has been coaching Girls On the Run since 2013, a PTA Liaison, Arrival & Dismissal Supervisor at PLE & attends & leads many after school activities & events. Christina goes above & beyond to help colleagues, students & parents in any way she can. And for all that & then some we are proud to be presenting her with the *Distinguished Service Award*! Thank you, Christina!
Melissa Malesky – Merit Award

Melissa Malesky joined the board for Walled Lake Elementary this year, and she has been such a motivating influence for our PTA. Melissa has single handedly helped bring in volunteers wherever needed included recruiting new board members for our next school year. She has a whole new outlook on fundraising that has already proven successful and brings the volunteers to boot! Melissa is the go-to person for all things PTA and is more than willing to jump in and help whenever she is needed. She successfully managed numerous fundraisers this year including our valentine grams, cupcake sale, spirit wear, as well as the planning and preparation of our new and improved Spring Fair that even includes a unicorn! Melissa does this all while owning a successful local boutique and being an awesome mom to her two amazing kids. We are so grateful for her generous contribution to our school and community.
Wixom Elementary

Terri Szymanski – Honorary Lifetime Member

Terri has run our Kindergarten Orientation and Kindergarten Round-up at Wixom for the past 5 years. She organizes the days' events, makes buckets filled with supplies for each of our incoming kindergartners, gets donations for the buckets and supplies, and makes all of the folders for the parents. Terri has even offered to come back next year when she is no longer a parent in our building to continue to help with our Kindergarten Roundup.

Over the years, Terri has also volunteered to organize our staff luncheons, 5th grade graduation, Mom to Mom Sale, Pumpkin Project, and you can find her helping at every PTA event at Wixom. Terri has been an amazing parent and volunteer at Wixom Elementary and will be truly missed as her daughter moves on to Sarah Banks next year.

Kristin and Karl Myszenski – Distinguished Service Award

The Myszenskis have volunteered at Wixom's annual Volleyball for a Cause events, Bingo Nights, our Funky Fall Fund Walks, 5th Grade Pumpkin projects, and regularly volunteer at several of our other PTA events.

Karl and Kristin live out of district yet have chosen to have their daughter attend Wixom Elementary. Even though their daughter is moving up to Sarah Banks next year, we are fortunate to be getting their son as an incoming kindergartner!

Jamie Geistler – Merit Award

Jamie has been a parent volunteer at Wixom for the past 8 years. While her girls were students at Wixom, she volunteered at many of the PTA events, graduations, Halloween parties, and other classroom parties.

Jeremy and Ann Ralston – Merit Award

Jeremy and Ann have been our popcorn parents for many years. They both would come to school and spend one Friday per month in the building, making popcorn for our students. They were also classroom volunteers at various grade levels at Wixom for the past 8 years.
Jeanne Appel - Merit Award
When the face that greets you at the entrance to school is as sweet, accommodating and kind as Ms. Jeanne Appel, you can't help but smile! Ms. Appel, our Geisler Attendance Secretary, never. She will always assist us in our planning and preparation for events. She distributes flyers and other communications to the classrooms for us. She even chaperones at our after-school activity days! We want to thank Jeanne for her continued dedication to our students, our families and the entire Geisler community.

Lisa McMaster - Merit Award
Lisa is the fearless leader of our custodial team at Geisler Middle School. Lisa continually goes above and beyond to help the Geisler staff and the PTA execute school events for the benefit of our students and families. Without Lisa's dedication to our school and the support of her crew, school functions such as the “Get Out of Class Party” fundraiser and after school dances would be challenging to realize. Her positive attitude and laughter are infectious. We humbly want to thank you and your team for everything you do for our school!

Sarah Piggott - Distinguished Service Award
Sarah is a very supportive PTA parent, and volunteer, for many years! She has been with GMS for 2 years and is amazing with the students, staff, and parents! She has a very positive personality that adds smiles to faces daily. Her first year with GMS, she stepped in and co-chaired our big fundraiser. While doing that, she discovered we needed a change in our fundraiser. She jumped right in as the Fundraiser Chair for 2018-2019 and came up with a great fundraiser that helped out our school, as well as, helping our community! We want to thank Sarah for her continued dedication to our students, our families and the entire Geisler community.

Torry Yu - Distinguished Service Award
Torry is a tireless volunteer, teacher, and PTSA member. His service as an educator, as a great colleague, and a wonderful volunteer has been outstanding. Torry always says “Tell me whatever I can do to help”. It doesn't matter what the event is, we can count on Torry Yu to be there! Regardless of what the request might be, his answer is “Sure, I can help” or “Sure, I would be happy to”. On behalf of our PTSA Reflections, a special thanks for Torry’s amazing support throughout the 2018/19 Reflections Program. When the Reflections chair was away for a family emergency, he filled in for her to promote and to upload the entries to portal. Even though he doesn’t hold the titles for many of his volunteering hats, he gives a 100 percent to whatever he is involved in. That is his personality. His service to not only Geisler Middle School, but also to many other schools in the district is very impressive!
2018-2019 Distinguished Service Award Recipient: Mr. Mark Lada
Mr. Lada is an interactive, spirited teacher who makes learning Science a not so intimidating endeavor. According to many of his students, he also makes learning Science a lot of fun! As parents, we greatly appreciate this, for our children are then excited about learning. To expand upon the exploration of Science in the classroom, Mr. Lada took the time to apply for a grant from the Foundation for Excellence for 3D Printers. He was awarded the grant and now all of the students at Banks benefit from his efforts. Also, Mr. Lada’s impact has been felt beyond the classroom through his overseeing of Sarah Banks’ Student Council. He has the Student Council members gather before our PTSA meetings, and then, brings the students to our meetings so they are a contributing part of our PTSA initiatives. Not to mention, he also brings his wonderful sense of humor! The Student Council, through Mr. Lada’s leadership, also gives back to the community through charitable drives that have benefitted such organizations as Scarlet’s Smile & Hospitality House. Just as Mr. Lada has done with Science, he has made learning Civics a fun-filled adventure! Thank you, Mr. Lada, for being an important part of our PTSA!

2018-2019 Distinguished Service Award Recipient: Mr. Robert Guttovz
As the very popular Design Technology teacher at Sarah Banks, Mr. Guttovz inspires his students to be inventive, creative and challenges them to move out of their comfort zone in the classroom by giving them projects that require them to think outside of the box. For parents, his huge emphasis on safety in the classroom is greatly appreciated, and ultimately, his students value this trait too. For his 8th grade students, they get to have a “business” that sells things to the school population, such as laminated signs. The profits are given back to the classroom to use for supplies but there is also a party if they reach their business goals. Mr. Guttovz interacts with his students well which leads to the building of positive relationships that have a lasting impact. Outside of the classroom, Mr. Guttovz has always sponsored PTSA by printing decals and stickers when needed including on short notice. He has also done projects for the elementary schools, in particular for the 5th-grade classes as departing gifts. All of this is done quietly behind the scenes as Mr. Guttovz simply wants to help. Thank you, Mr. Guttovz, for the tremendous gift of your time and efforts!
**Merit Awards**

**Denise Ramirez** for her dedication for the last three years. Serving on the board for membership/spirit wear, membership and VP of Fundraising. She has set up and ran our Facebook page and has put together all the fundraising baskets throughout the years. If you need something done all you need to do ask her and she is always willing to help.

**Jodi Gallo** for dedicating the last two years to running Spirit wear and finding a new company for it. She is always willing to help whenever she can and attended every meeting.

**Distinguished Service Award**

It is a true honor to acknowledge **Mrs. Cathy Kansman** for the PTSA Distinguished Service Award. Cathy is a perfect example of a staff member who always put “kids first”. As a counselor at Walnut Creek Middle School for the past several years, she has worn a lot of hats and has been such an integral part of the school community.

She is an outstanding collaborator with the students, families, staff and understands the importance of teamwork. Her laser focus on student success is evident by how active she is in meeting the ever-changing needs of the students, while also understanding the importance of the whole child and the academic and social-emotional needs of every child.

She has been instrumental in leading the PALS program at Walnut Creek which focuses on student leadership, positive citizenship, and continuous academic improvement. In addition to her duties as Counselor she also coaches girls volleyball, girls soccer and coordinates an after school yoga class for our middle school girls. She also has held leadership positions at Walnut Creek which include coordinating the scheduling and state testing as well as serving as the Department Chair for the Counseling Department.

Mrs. Cathy Kansman is an authentic educator who can always be counted on. She has been a strong advocate for serving and supporting the students and families in Walled Lake Schools.

**Michigan Honorary Life Membership**

**Lois Griffin** has been teaching at Walnut Creek Middle School since 1998, the year it opened, and fortunately, she has not left since! She is a dedicated World Language and French teacher who wholeheartedly embraces her commitment to our District focus of "Every Child, Every Day".

Lois understands the value of building positive relationships with her students and this is one of her many strengths. Her ability to motivate her students begins with how well she is able to connect and build a rapport with her students. It is not uncommon for groups of students to visit her classroom during lunch time to eat in her classroom.

She also shows great compassion for her students and is always willing to provide her extra time and support for her students. Leadership is also a major aspect of what Lois brings to Walnut Creek, and her efforts extend beyond the contractual workday. She has been the Encore Department Leader, the PTSA Representative, and Teacher Union Leadership Representative for several years. The Walnut Creek Middle School Community has been so fortunate to have Mrs. Lois Griffin and she has imprinted quite a legacy.
Parent **Todd Niehaus** is being presented with an Honorary Life Member Award. He has been a dedicated and involved volunteer these last three years at Clifford Smart. During this time, Todd has chaired the book fair and held the role of President. He supports the work of the PTSA with his willingness to pitch in where need. He has developed strong and positive relationships. We are proud to say he will be a life member of Smart’s PTSA.

We would like to present an Honorary Life Member Award to parent **Colleen McDowell**. While at Smart, Colleen has regularly attended meetings. In her role as VP of Fundraising, she has chaired our fall fundraiser, doing an outstanding job of organizing and motivating the students. She looked for other fundraising opportunities and spearheaded Hungry Howie’s pizza nights. She has a dedicated and can-do attitude. Her help with PTSA work has been crucial. She has been a very active supporter of the school and PTSA, and we will miss her very much at Smart.

Parent **Paul Reaume** is being presented with an Honorary Life Member Award for his work these past two years as our PTSA Treasurer. Paul stepped into a challenging role when he took over this huge job. He has been a positive member of the Smart team. Paul worked well with the board and administration to help complete numerous projects during his tenure. His support with fundraising, book fair, wish list purchases, and the monthly membership drives has been invaluable. We are sad to see him moving on.

We would also like to present a Distinguished Service Award to parent **Jackie Gurwin**. Jackie has been active as a Smart volunteer in many ways. We are very appreciative of her work as the membership chair and VP of Volunteers as well as her past work while in charge of awards and bylaws! She is that parent who is always willing to help and is not shy about being in a leadership role, which is always appreciated!

**Jillian Moutafis** joined the PTSA this year as the recording secretary and she has accepted the nomination as the 2019-2020 President of PTSA. We have valued her positive and organized manner at meetings. She thoroughly attends to the details. Jillian works weekly in the copy room, which is so appreciated. She stepped in to organize the conference night dinner and staff appreciation as well, making her well-loved amongst the staff of Smart!

**Mary Austin** is receiving a Merit Award this year. We appreciate the many hours she has dedicated to the students as our Reflections Chair. The hours she has contributed to Smart are very much appreciated and we will miss her next year.

**Megan Hickey** is also receiving a Merit Award. Megan is an experienced volunteer who spearheaded the health and wellness role these past two years.
**Walled Lake Central**

**Distinguished Service Award: Bobby Kidd**

Bobby Kidd is our Enviro Clean employee in charge of grounds at WLC. You can always find Bobby as he is typically the first one to arrive at WLC each day. He goes above and beyond, sometimes out shoveling by hand in very cold temperatures. He does not have a limit to the scope of his job and just does what needs to be done, typically before anyone else realizes it needs attention. He is always looking for ways to improve his practice and anticipate customer needs. When complimented, his only reply is “just doing my job”. Anyone who knows Bobby agrees he is more than deserving of this award.

**Distinguished Service Award: Geethika Bodanapu**

Geethika Bodanapu’s loyalty to her school, her family, and to herself is commendable. Geethika is a valued 2-year member of our Chapter of the National Honor Society, and this year is our chapter’s President. NHS the highest honor program our school has available. She is the epitome of the four pillars of NHS representation: Scholarship, Service, Leadership and Character. She also is the President of HOSA (Future Health Professionals). Geethika has won regional competitions representing this group. Locally, she organized a bone marrow drive in our community for one of our students suffering from a rare genetic disorder.

Geethika’s involvement in various programs and volunteer opportunities during her high school career sets her apart from so many of her classmates. This summer, she traveled to Hyderabad, India, through the organization *Uplift Humanity*. There she volunteered with juveniles in their correctional and welfare systems, by teaching them life skills, public speaking, and anger management skills. She has also volunteered at Huron Valley hospital regularly for the past three years. Her selflessness is endless. Geethika Bodanapu takes her education seriously, and most importantly, she is confident enough in herself to know when to ask for assistance. Her academic record, among our highest-achieving and competitive graduating class, speak volumes of her academic abilities.

**Distinguished Service Award: Matt Weber**

Matt Weber is one of those people EVERYONE at WLCSD knows. In fact, we are pretty sure he is a triplet as he can be seen in multiple places at once it seems. This year, right before our musical opened at WLC, or Producer went off on an unexpected medical leave. Matt never missed a beat and was able to not only handle the multiple things he already does, he also helped cover for her absence without missing a thing. He also volunteered to chaperone the trip that was planned during spring break to Toronto in her absence.

**Merit Award: Julie Hite**

Julie has reinvented Reflections at WLC! She came in with some great ideas and got great participation during her first year. Julie spent many hours creating a website and working with the students to get information out. She had tables set out during lunch helping to promote Reflections using student leadership. She was relentless in getting sponsors and donations from local businesses and setting up rewards for the students. We are so lucky to have such dedication at the High School level for Reflections!

**Acorn Award: Zachary Yono**

Zachary Yono is a senior. He has been an integral part of CASA for the last 3 years. He is a natural leader and is always looking for ways to not only help the club, but to find activities in the community for the club to do. He is always offering help to his teachers and is a natural leader in his classes. He is very deserving of this great award!
Rosalie Harter – Distinguished Service Award
Rosalie is one of those volunteers you wish you had a million of. She is enthusiastic, energetic, and always willing to jump in and help when needed. Her pride for the school and the accomplishments of the students is obvious.

Over the years, Rosalie has helped organize Staff Appreciation Week, our concession stand fundraiser, and supported many other initiatives around the school. She embodies what it means to be an involved, caring volunteer. Rosalie gives 100% in anything she does and, frankly, sometimes she gives about 150%. While we are excited for her to see her daughter graduate and move on in life, we will be very sorry to see her go.
Thank you for all of your hard work over the years, Rosalie!

Amy Walker – Merit Award
“Band Mom Extraordinaire” is the title that follows Amy Walker everywhere. She has been an integral part of the Marching Band program at WLN for years and will be leaving behind some HUGE shoes to fill. Amy is rarely found sitting back, relaxing, and watching the show. You will usually find her in the background making things run flawlessly. She has organized Marching Band Registration, Marching Band camp, banquets, parades, transportation for festivals and performances... if it’s associated with Marching Band you can probably find Amy’s name all over it. The Marching Band is an amazing source of pride for Walled Lake Northern and it wouldn’t be all that it is without Amy’s help. Amy, thank you so much for giving your time, effort, and energy to change so many kids’ lives!

Deputy Shannon Giffin – Merit Award
As we all know, school safety is a concern for most parents and students. Deputy Giffin has a knack for making people feel comfortable and safe within our school and that means the world to all of us. She is fair and consistent, and the students truly respect her. She has made it a point to get to know the kids on a personal level which allows her to assist them in making tough choices when necessary. Whether she’s helping a student who seems to be “lost” in the hallway or handling a life changing incident she is always professional and kind.

Deputy Giffin is a pleasure to work with and her positive attitude is contagious. As she moves on to a new role in life we wish her all the happiness and joy in the world. Thank you, Deputy Giffin, for taking care of our kids for so many years. Now, enjoy the time focusing on yours. Congratulations!
William “Bill” Kussy is a History and Government Teacher at Walled Lake Western. He attends every meeting, continually volunteers with PTSA, and helps with any other student event where he is needed. Mr. K makes an effort to get to know every student in the school. He sweeps the restrooms for student safety and monitors the halls between classes. He chaperoned the late shift for VBM this year and is the faculty class sponsor for multiple years, including the upcoming 2020 class. Mr. Kussy works with the SAC team on organizing the Prom, he volunteers at football games, attends many sporting events, and donates his time and funds to any student that seeks his help. As far as teacher involvement goes, Mr. K deserves not only an A+ for all of his commitments, but recognition for all of his hard work.