



## Monthly Kudos Digest

Collaboration • Innovation • Compassion • Trustworthy • Respect

May 2015

### Collaboration • Innovation • Compassion • Trustworthy • Respect

Kudos to **Shelly Hawthorne** (Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program) for helping Xenia McKay, and me, to set up interpreter services for the Kalamazoo Public Library's First Saturday Program. This time it was in partnership with Kalamazoo Literacy Program. We are planning further partnerships with both groups to bring support in gaining literacy skills for everyone. Thank you Shelly!

*Kathleen Robertson*

*Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program*



### Collaboration • Innovation • Compassion • Trustworthy • Respect

**Peggy Switzer** (WoodsEdge Learning Center/Offsite) does a great job of following teacher directions, loving students, assisting student needs and being an innovator in our class.

*Mathew Alger*

*WoodsEdge Parchment North Elementary / Offsite*



### Collaboration • Innovation • Compassion • Trustworthy • Respect

My kudos go out to my fabulous co-workers **Sue Grantham, Mat Alger, Amber Shumaker** (WoodsEdge Learning Center/Offsite.) We work as a team and support each other whenever there are any issues. Our team works very well together. Kudos to them!

*Peggy Switzer*

*WoodsEdge Parchment North Elementary/Offsite*



## Collaboration • Innovation • Compassion • Trustworthy • Respect

I am so lucky to have such a great work family! It is hard to find compatible people that you can work closely with everyday and still actually want to return to work the days following. We are definitely a team. Loving and guiding our kids Yet always sharing smiles and in OUR room, a WHOLE LOTTA LAUGHTER! Thank you to my superdeedooper co-workers **Peggy Switzer**, **Mat Alger** and **Amber Shumaker** (WoodsEdge Learning Center/Offsite.)

*Suzanne Grantham*

*WoodsEdge Parchment North Elementary/Offsite*

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## Collaboration • Compassion • Respect

With limited time in the office it is difficult to have a scanner that is so far away from the computer. **Katie Johnkoski** (West Campus) took it upon herself to locate and scan the materials that I was concerned about, at the end of her work day. This was such a huge time saver for me and I am grateful!

*Sally Burch*

*TCVI/West Campus*

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## Collaboration

**Bradley Greer** (Portage Northern High School) and I are doing a book study "How to be a parapro." We have had great discussions regarding our students and how to be proactive, thinking forward to next school year. He has learned a lot about the challenges our students face and is learning to apply those skills.

*Eileen Pawlicki*

*Portage Northern High School*

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## Collaboration

Kudos to **Robin Hill** and **Anna Trupiano** (HI offsite) for working after school at the last minute to ensure a student had equal access to activities!

*Kathy Spaulding*

*HI offsite*

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## Collaboration • Compassion • Respect

**Debbie Alrick** (WE) is a great person to work with she keeps this job fun and has great compassion to all the children and to staff... Thanks Debbie for all you do at PNMS...

*Vickie Kuehl*

*PNMS*

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## Collaboration • Compassion

**Vickie Kuehl** (WE/ASD Offsite) is very compassionate about her job. She is a good team player and we work well together. Kudos to Vickie!

*Debbie Alrick*

*PNMS*

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## Collaboration

I just want to thank the wonderful group of people that I work with in the **Family, Infant, Toddler Program** who took on extra work, encouraged me and always kept me in the loop while I was working on intermittent Family Medical Leave for six months with a back injury. This wonderful group of women never complained - actually volunteered! - to add some of my students to their caseloads and help write progress reports. I feel so lucky to be a part of such a caring and generous group of people. Love you guys! So happy to be back full-time!

*Nancy Justin*

*FIT*

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## Collaboration • Innovation • Compassion • Trustworthy • Respect

**Mark Dersh** (MiTech) is always willing to come and fix our technology problems. Mark is very patient with us, he takes time to explain things in terms we can understand. He never makes us feel incompetent but encourages us with things we do understand. We truly appreciate Mark and glad he is assigned to WELC.

*Kim, Beth and Christi*

*WELC*

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## Collaboration

I had a rush request for Davenport Competition photos to be put on CDs. We needed to get to instructors to share with the students before they left for the year. They were completed and delivered that same morning. The entire **REMC staff** repeatedly goes above and beyond. Kudos to REMC!

*Carol Geving  
EFE*

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## Collaboration • Innovation

**Tina Tribu** (Technology) has been supporting Valley Center teachers and myself in using technology more effectively for two years. Relentless in her approach, we agreed to tackle Google Drive/Docs/Forms this year. Wow, wow, wow - thank you Tina! Not only has this helped me be more efficient at work and in my other life, it has helped our building build in the area of collaboration. AND - teachers are using it with their students and we have plans for more growth. Thanks for keeping us on our cutting edge. Kudos to you!

*Mary Guthrie  
Valley Center/Special Education*

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## Collaboration • Innovation • Compassion • Trustworthy • Respect

**Tina Tribu** (Technology) is always willing to teach and train staff in the newest technology and applications that are available. I attended the SWMBO conference in March 2015 and Tina did a presentation on Tips & Tools for Enhancing Documents, which also included how to search for images in Google, how to shorten the URL, etc. Tina is a well-organized presenter and extremely enthusiastic about sharing her knowledge with others. Recently, she did an Inservice on Office 365 and when I had trouble figuring out how to log-in, Tina came right up to help me figure it out.

*Jean DeWaters  
Service Center/Special Education*

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## Collaboration

I want to thank **LouAnn Prescott** (Business Office/Payroll) for always being there as my right hand person. She follows through and is quick to respond. LouAnn collaborates with me and we work together to find solutions. I appreciate having such a wonderful individual on my team in payroll!

*Jeni Opel  
Service Center/Human Resources*

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## Collaboration • Compassion • Trustworthy • Respect

I would Like to thank both **Barb Loy** and **Sandy Wrogg** and **all of the Schoolcraft Elementary students** for coming and joining in our celebration for our 2 seniors and help us in sending them off in style, you have both made a difference in those boys lives and we love that you made it over to wish them off well.

*Jane Meadows*

*Schoolcraft High School*

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## Collaboration • Compassion • Respect

**Tracy, Terry** and **Stephanie** (Dee's CSI Classroom) have done a great job handling the classroom while the main teacher - Dee has been out on medical leave. They have really stepped up with incorporating the students mobility and equipment needs into the classroom! Thanks guys for all you do!

*Maureen Gast*

*WoodsEdge/Support Staff*

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## Innovation • Trustworthy

**Tony Stoval** (Lakeside Academy) and I always find better ways to help kids face difficult situations and help them back into the community.

*Isaiah Dorian*

*Lakeside Academy*

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## June 2015

## Collaboration • Innovation

Kudos to **Anne Goodrich** (MiTech) for always trying to make things easier and more efficient. Anne has recently reviewed and tested the "PDF Email Review" option which, when implemented, will replace handwritten notes and make the reviewing process smoother and faster.

*Nathalie Alwane*

*MiTech*

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## Collaboration • Innovation • Compassion • Trustworthy • Respect

**Norma Ash, Meredith Sny and April Goodwin** (Head Start) organized our first Family Fun Night for Head Start students and parents. This event linked families up to receive Hoops For Health and allowed them to shop on site with local farmers market vendors. Families also enjoyed the live music and danced along to the beat. This event was a great success due to the hard work and dedication these three ladies have.

*Stacy Schmitzer*

*Head Start*

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## Collaboration • Compassion • Trustworthy

**Chris Kato** (ASD Teacher at Schoolcraft High School) has made the difference in an incredibly smooth transition for his high school students. This spring, after hearing the difficult news that the ASD classrooms at Schoolcraft Middle School and Schoolcraft High School would be closing the following year, Chris demonstrated incredible collaboration with parents, students, administrators, teacher consultants and paraprofessionals in order to move forward with planning for a successful transition to a resource room classroom for all four of his students. He was positive and encouraging, while demonstrating care and understanding with parents who were openly grieving the loss of the ASD classroom. Because of Chris' choice to put students first, even in the face of a difficult situation the outcome of the planning meetings has been overwhelmingly positive.

*Angela Telfer*

*WoodsEdge Learning Center*

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## Compassion • Respect

**Amanda Brescia, Barb Loy, Sandy Wrogg, Aaron Beery, Janelle Braasch, Chris Kato, Mary Carol Clark and Jane Meadows**, this amazing group of Kalamazoo RESA Schoolcraft staff supported students and their parents when the difficult news of the closing of two Schoolcraft ASD classrooms was shared. Despite their own concern about a major change in the program, I witnessed care, support and encouragement of students and their families as they adjusted to the news. I'm so proud of them all for moving quickly beyond their personal feelings to actions that made the students feel comfortable, reassured, and even excited about next school year. Wow!

*Angela Telfer*

*WoodsEdge Learning Center*

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## Collaboration

**Stan Hoekstra** (Maintenance) thanks so much for stepping up to help find and deliver the tables to the Growlers' game. Your positive attitude and willingness to serve made the event go smoother.

*Jason Luke*

*EFE*

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## Collaboration

**Diane Fort, Deb Kolberg** and **Anna Patton-Cowherd** (EFE) I greatly appreciate your willingness to do whatever was needed to make the Growlers' Education Day a success. Whether you were interacting with Engineers from Kellogg's or Stryker, to monitoring 3,000 little people, or wrapping hundreds of hotdogs, you do it all with excellence. The three of you a joy to work with everyday!

*Jason Luke*

*EFE*

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## Collaboration • Innovation • Compassion • Trustworthy • Respect

**Kayley Mingus** (MiTech) has been a true asset to the Juvenile Home School. Her professionalism, timeliness, ability to fix and troubleshoot any issue, as well as always making time for the program, has been a wonderful blessing this year. She is kind, well respected, and I look forward to our future work together. Thanks Kayley! You are the best!!!

*Adam Danapilis*

*Juvenile Home School*

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