

March 1, 2011

### **Principal's Corner:**

We are enjoying a great deal of success this school year that I am happy to share with you....

#### **Special Student Recognition**

Lia Anderson, a seventh grade student at Holt Junior High School was the winner of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual 1000 Words Contest held by the MSU Women's Basketball team and MVP Ball Club. This year the theme was, "If you got to spend the day with your favorite player, who would it be and what would you do?"

As the grand prize winner, Lia appeared on the Suzy Merchant Radio Show on February 16, 2011 at noon at Reno's Eastside in East Lansing, Michigan. Lia choose #32, Kalisha Keane as her favorite player and read part of her essay on the radio and to the 100 + Spartan fans seated in the audience during the radio program. From her essay she stated, "The thing I like about Kalisha, is that she doesn't seem to be afraid of anything and always surprises me with her athletic ability. She and I both have at least one thing in common, the love or passion for basketball."

Coach Merchant said she also read Lia's entire essay to her team and was very pleased she was even mentioned in the essay on winning a game of 'Lighting' against Lia and the MSU Women's Basketball team. Lia was also asked would she like to meet Kalisha someday and she said yes, so later in the program, Kalisha made a surprise visit to Reno's Eastside and congratulated Lia on her winning essay. Lia was so excited that Coach Merchant stated Lia was speechless when she met Kalisha! Lia and her mom enjoyed a lunch at the MSU FastBreak Club (official booster of the MSU Women's Basketball team) table and Dr. John Faust kindly paid for their lunch.



Lia with Kalisha Keane



Lia with Coach Suzy Merchant

#### **Fine Arts Experience**

We are excited to present two spring choir concerts held in March. Our general choir students will be performing on March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Junior High School auditorium. Students will be singing contemporary songs that are commonly heard on the radio. Non-traditional, contemporary songs help

increase student engagement and peak interest levels of students with little or no previous choir experience.

The Rams Choir, which is a collection of students with a strong interest and background in choir performance, will be performing on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm in the Junior High School auditorium. The Rams Choir students will perform a mix of traditional and contemporary songs. These students are exceptional musicians who have worked extremely hard to prepare for their upcoming performance.

Please come out and support our fine arts choir program. Students need to know that parents appreciate and respect their efforts. As always, I ask that we participate in a dignified manner as audience members. Our choir performers need the audience to model excellent behavior to help minimize distractions to the overall performance. We look forward to seeing you at our choir performances.

### **Technology**

We are pleased to share with you that Holt Junior High School has added a wireless computer lab that houses 31 Hewlett Packard Netbooks. Teachers are allowed to bring their students down to the computer lab and each student can work on their own laptop computer. The wireless laptops have internet access and allow students to save their research on the school's share drive. This new computer lab is in addition to our two existing computer labs that we refurbished with all new computer technology last year. Maintaining up to date technology has provided additional opportunities for students to create computer animation, digital story boards, Power Point and Proxy presentations with personal voice recordings. Teachers are engaging students in technology applications that will ensure they have the technological skills to communicate and compete in a global market place. Not only does technology offer opportunities for students to learn new skills, technology increases student engagement and provides students with a multitude of creative ways in which to share and present information.

### **Clubs and Organizations**

Holt Junior High School offers a number of opportunities for students to get involved in extra-curricular activities both in and outside the school day. Our newest club that will begin this week is our Channel 1 Lunch Club sponsored by our 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies teacher, Mrs. Angela Freed. Channel 1 is a new program that brings information into the classroom in student friendly way. Students are able to learn about what is taking place around the world, such as what is currently taking place in Egypt, and have intelligent conversations, based on factual information, with students who share similar interests.

Beginning next week, any student who has "B" lunch can bring their lunch from the cafeteria down to Mrs. Freed's classroom to view the latest news topics on Chanel 1 and engage in intellectual discussion. Our Channel 1 Lunch Club offers students an additional opportunity to seek out quiet places to enjoy their lunch with friends that is away from the hustle and bustle of the cafeteria and gymnasium. Please let us know if you would like more information on this new and exciting club.

**Thank You Parents**

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Holt Junior High School, thank you for your continued support and entrusting us to provide a high quality education for your much deserving child. Please feel free to contact us or stop by and check out the outstanding educational opportunities that are taking place daily in our building. Together we can make a difference in the lives of each and every child.

Respectfully,

Marshall Perkins  
Principal  
Holt Junior High School