



July 2016

THE PATRIOT TIMES

Brought to you by the students of Charlton Heston Academy



CHA helps in the Fight to End Cancer

By: Haley Jarosz
On May 1985, Dr. Gordy Klatt walked and ran for 24 hours around a track in Tacoma, Washington, Ultimately Raising \$27,000 to help the American Cancer Society, fight the nation's biggest health concern. One year later 340 supporters joined the overnight event making this event the beginning of a huge fundraising and awareness event across the country. Relay for Life has many events during the 24 hour walk that

draw crowds and supporters of all ages. One of them is the Survivor's lap, which all of the cancer survivors that are attending the event take the first lap. Another event is the Luminary ceremony which takes place after dark so we can remember the people who lost the battle to cancer, and honor the survivors. Lastly, is the fight ceremony this is an especially powerful ceremony that inspires Relay for Life participants to take action. These are a few of the main events for

Relay for Life. Each year, Charlton Heston Academy participates in Relay Recess, an event that mimics Relay for Life. Students, staff and community members are welcome to join. Relay Recess 2016 was held on Thursday, June 16 in the CHA parking lot. This was the 2nd annual Relay Recess. Trish Jackson is the leader of the event in this area. Trish went around to each classroom and taught the students how to make luminary bags. Every class

made a poster to represent their support to Relay for Life. CHA started the afternoon with the luminary walk then went outside and do 3 hours of walking with some activities in between. A new activity this year was fear factor. Two age groups competed at a time, they had the elementary and the 6th grade through 11th grade. The elementary students had to guess what flavor of baby food they were eating, then had to dig through a bucket of

noodles to find a key to the backpack with dirty gym socks in it. The winner was Kelsey. The middle and upper grades had to drink a nasty mix of assorted grocery items including tuna fish, beets, Little Debbie roll, sprite, Spaghetti O's, banana and other items. The two winners competed in a relay where they had to dig through a bucket of dead minnows to find a key to unlock a backpack with a dirty gym sock, pick up rice with tweezers, and carry dog treats in

their mouth. The two finalists were Destiny McNally and Devyn Austin. Devyn Austin was the overall winner and got a Relay for Life single strap backpack. A selection of high school students, including Mr. Alden, participated in a lip sync battle. Returning events included the water station and face painting booth. CHA participated in the June 25th Relay for Life in Houghton Lake.



Year-Around School

By: Abbigayle Parker
St. Helen's K-12 school is Charlton Heston Academy, CHA. Our school is year-around. The founders of this school adopted this idea for many reasons. Attending school year-round is better for the student learning. It prevents learning loss and the breaks are spread out so kids and teachers get a vacation but at the same time they will still remember what they are learning in school. It's also better because you could say most kids get bored in the summer

time and then they lose most of their learning. This is a challenge for teachers because when the students return in the fall (in a traditional setting), teachers use much of the first weeks of school to re-teach material from the previous year. Year-round school allows more time for college prep and more educational field trips. It has no cost to families for food, trips, and supplies. Year-round school also can make planning family time easier for full-time, working parents. Some people still disa-

gree with year-round school. Some points that may be addressed concerning year-round school are that it takes more planning for some of the teachers. Also, there is less time for teacher to pursue their daily life or less time for high school students to find a job to pay for gas, save for college and other expenses. In the end, year-round school benefits the kids because there is very minimal learning loss and they are engaged learning longer than the traditional school.

The 4th of July

By: Sofia Dubois & Haley Jarosz
The Declaration of Independence was approved on the 4th of July, 1776, now known as Independence Day. The Declaration of Independence was actually a letter to King George that had been written on July 2 by Thomas Jefferson. It was a formal explanation of why the continental congress voted to declare independence from Great Brit-

ain. The day that most signers of the Declaration of Independence actually sign the document was August, 2nd, 1776. The 4th of July became a legal federal holiday in 1870, then in 1938, Congress reaffirmed the holiday to make sure all workers received full pay. 2.5 million people lived in the United States when the Declaration of Independence was signed. The Pennsylvania Evening Post

first printed the Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson was the first president to host a Fourth of July celebration. The 4th is one the largest summer celebrations in the United States. Parades, cook-outs and family and friends gather and celebrate this week long celebration. Check out local communities chamber of commerce for Independence Day celebrations.

We ♥ Charlton Heston Academy

Loved Community and CHA PTO Member: Sandra Meir

Around the Halls: Rex Richards



By: Natasha Meir
Sandra Meir aka Sandy Meir was born May 4th in 1960 in Oklahoma by her mother Shirley McKillop. She lived in Oklahoma and Nebraska then they moved to St. Helen in 1975. She had Floyd Meir in 1979 they got married in 1988. They had two sons, Edward and Robert Meir. Later in the years, Edward married Rachel and had three children Breanna, Natasha, and Eddie Meir. Then Robert married Elaine and had two children Isabel and Colton Meir. Sandy spent a lot of time with her family.

Although Sandy Meir had lived a full life she had a few bumps along way. One of those few bumps in the road was open heart surgery. She had open heart surgery just last year in March of 2015. She had a full recovery. Also she had a mechanical valve plus other procedures done at that time. Then in April 2016 she was taken by ambulance to West Branch Hospital. It was confirmed she had 3 strokes, but she bounced back quickly. However, her foot kept turning purple and hurting. They transferred her to Bay Med. At that time she had blood clots in her mechanical valve, so they put her on extra medicine. They found a blockage in her leg so they put a stint in it. Even though the procedure was successful she had two more

strokes. Her left side ended up paralyzed, but she would talk away. They transferred her to the Rose City Villa. She did great for the first 2 weeks. But the last 2 weeks she quit eating and drinking. She even refused her medication. On May 20th she went into cardiac arrest. They tried everything to save her. Even though she is gone she will be forever in our hearts and greatly missed. She was a one of a kind person. She brought joy and love to her family and friends. She enjoyed being a part of the PTO at Charlton Heston Academy. She loved helping the school with activities. She enjoyed helping children as well. She enjoyed cleaning everything in the house from top to bottom. She spent a lot of time with her children, husband, mother, daughter-in-laws and grandchildren.

By: Gavin Estep
Rex Richards, a boy of the age of six, an attendant of Charlton Heston Academy, and a very energetic child. At the age of six he currently attends Ms. Rodriguez's kindergarten class. He enjoys writing as his favorite school subject and enjoys the school's food. Rex has no siblings and friends do not live close enough to visit often. In his spare time

he enjoys riding his bicycle as well as he does swimming with his family. He plays with legos when he gets lonely and enjoys the fact he can build whatever he wants to. Rex recently turned six on May 7th. He enjoyed a crowd of friends he would usually only see at school but now at his own home. He had a transformers piñata as one of his favorite charac-

ters. One of Rex's opinions is breakfast is the most important meal of the day. His favorite color is red. His favorite food is pepperoni pizza and his favorite dessert is ice cream with sprinkles. This concludes that Rex Richards is an energetic, little bundle of fun waiting to be opened.

Around the Halls: DJ Silva



By: Natasha Meir
DJ Silva is 17 years old and he's in 11th grade. His favorite subject is English and his favorite staff member is Mr. Huntley. He has been going to Charlton Heston Academy for only one year. DJ's birthday is March 30, 1999. DJ is in a relationship with Dan-

ielle Marshall. DJ's best friend is Danielle Marshall. DJ's favorite color is green. At lunch he sits by Danielle Marshall. Also his favorite movie is "The Martian". DJ's favorite animal is a Mallard Duck. DJ plays football and basketball.

Around the Halls: Ms. Berner



By: Kayleigh Pendas
Ashlee Berner or Ms. Berner started teaching at Charlton Heston Academy (CHA) in 2015 as a first grade teacher. Berner's full name is Ashlee Berner and she was born on October 4th, 1989 in Saginaw Michigan. Berner's nickname while growing up was Hollywood. She has four

siblings. The four siblings include of 2 girls and 2 boys. Her hometown is Roscommon, Michigan and she attended South Maple Elementary, Gaylord and North Elementary in Birch Run, Roscommon Middle school, and Roscommon High School. She graduated college in 2012 from Michigan State University (MSU) and Olivet College. MSU is located in East Lansing and Olivet College is located in Olivet, MI. Berner has always loved kids and has wanted to be a teacher since second grade. If she didn't become a teacher she would maybe become a singer. Her best friends include Jessica Howard, Sarah Gandy,

and Lee Cassiday. Jess and Sarah are friends from college and Lee is her cousin. Hobbies of Ms. Berner include playing sports, going boating, outdoor activities, and watching movies. Her favorite season is summer because it is sunny and she loves to be in the water. Berner wanted to work at Charlton Heston Academy (CHA) because she is from this area and it is the perfect place to work. Ashlee has an English Elementary degree, and a teaching certificate. "My favorite place to be is Paris, France. I went there after college and I loved it," says Berner. Berner's favorite author is Gillian Flynn and she has a yellow lab.

Around the Halls: Kevin Adamson



By: Nellie Kleinert
Kevin is a janitor, he cleans up after all the class color groups. His favorite colors are maize and blue. His favorite food is Chinese food. When he was a kid he was the favorite one. His favorite snack is Combos. He goes to Kirtland Community College (KCC), and he is studying Cardiac Sonography. It all depends on his classes for him to graduate. He does not have any pets at the moment.

Kevin likes CHA because his best friend is here, her name is Ms. D (3rd grade teacher and soon to be Kevin's wife). His favorite value is community because, "Community is all about people helping each other." he replied. Since he was responsible for cleaning the classrooms at the end of the day, he said that Mrs. Larms room is the easiest to clean. His future plans are to get married and live happily ever after.

SCHOOL RESUMES

JULY 11, 2016

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Book Review:
“A Tale of Charles Lindbergh”



By: Katelin Travelbee
The book review for this month is Lindbergh: The Tale of a Flying Mouse. This story is about a mouse

that learns to fly. He sees a bat and sees its wings and it gives him an awesome idea of flying. He starts off with a pair of wings

and goes bigger to a plane and flies to New York. The mouse has shows there and has people come to see the great flying mouse and a boy always came to his shows named Charles Lindbergh. It also talks about Charles Lindbergh, Otto Lilienthal, The Wright Brothers and Torben Kuhlmann. I liked this book it was a very interesting. It is a good book for learning about the history of flying. The illustrations are incredible and make the book so much more interesting.

Newest Addition to the
CHA Family: Baby Rodriguez



By: Dakotha Larive
Ms. Andrea Rodriguez has been away from Charlton Heston Academy because there is a

new bundle of joy in her life. The baby is a girl, her name is Sophia Grace. She was born 7 pounds, 7 ounces and 18 1/4 inches long. Sophia was born on May 12, 2016. Ms. Rodriguez said that Sophia brings so much joy to her life. She loves to be held and snuggled. Teachers and staff members at CHA hosted a baby shower for Rodriguez and she said, “My baby shower from CHA was lovely. It took place at school and numerous staff members attended and blessed Sophia with

lots of gifts. I did not have to do anything for my shower except show up. For the future, I’ve started a bank account for Sophia and I plan on being the best mom possible for Sophia.” Andrea said the most used gift received are diapers and wipes. “Babies use lots and lots of diapers,” said Andrea. She is on maternity leave, but she will return to teach at CHA on July 11th after early summer break. Welcome to the CHA family, Sophia Grace!

CHA Art Show & Spring Choir Concert

By: Madi Cunningham and Dakotha Larive
June 15th the CHA Choir classes and Art classes hosted their Spring Concert and Art Walk. 8th grade through 11th grade performed and art from all grades was displayed around the halls. The 7th grade went first. They sang “Cool Kids”, “Lean on Me”, “Rock And Roll is Here to Stay”, and “Count On Me.” Next went the eighth grade, they sang “Mr. Tambourine Man”, “Summertime”, “What A Wonderful World”, and “Downtown”. To

end the evening, the high school sang “Come Where My Love Lies Dreaming”, “Over the Rainbow”, “O’ Shenandoah”, and the last song of the night was “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough.” There was a full house filled with loving friends and family. Before the concert there was an art show and treats you could buy to raise money for Relay for Life. The art show at Charlton Heston Academy, was a success. The art show allows people from around the com-

munity to view what the students worked on, in the first semester. Ms. Ekdorn makes sure every student in the elementary school student has at least one piece of work in the show. The Middle school and High School students can put in a submission. However if Ms. Ekdorn thinks that a piece of art is really great, she will ask the person who created it if she can put it in the show. Many people showed up and walked around to see what has been going on in the art room.



Upcoming Events

REMINDER- CHA resumes July 11. Students will only be attending Monday-Thursday until the end of the year in August. Please contact the main office for questions (989)632-3390.
Community:
July 2- St. Helen Fireworks @ Richfield Township Park and St. Helen Airport beginning at dusk
July 2- West Branch -Culpepper & Merriweather Circus Comes to Town
July 3- Houghton Lake Fireworks @ HL Airport beginning at dusk
July 3- West Branch Fireworks at dusk
July 4-Roscommon Fireworks at dusk
July 9- Helping Hands’ Fun Run
July 9- Crawford County Relay for Life
July 16- Hartwick Pines State Park Woodshaving Days 10am-4pm
http://www.michigandnr.com/parksandtrails/
call: 989-348-7068 for more information
July 14-17- Bluegill Festival
July 17- Bluegill Parade- line up at CHA @ noon
July 23- Book Sale and Paperback Swap @ Marketplace 10am-2pm
July 23- Public Safety’s Health and Safety Fair 11am- 2pm
July 25 @ 6:00pm- Author Richard Baldwin
July 26-31- Grayling’s AuSable River Festival
(http://graylingchamber.com/chamber-events/ausable-river-festival-intl-canoe-marathon/)
July 26- H.U.P (Hurry Up and Paddle) Race- City Park @ 5pm
July 26- Kids Day- 10am-2pm @ Grayling City Park – lunch provided
FREE admission
July 29- Arts and Crafts Show in Grayling City Park 10am- 8pm
July 30- Classic Car Show- Michigan Ave, Grayling 8am-4pm
Arts and Crafts Show – 9am-6pm
Food Court on Michigan Ave. 9am-6pm
9:00pm Start of the 69th AuSable River Canoe Marathon @ The Old AuSable Fly Shop
July 31- End of AuSable River Canoe Marathon in Oscoda 11:30am-4pm (approximately)

Birthdays of July

By: Abbigayle Parker
Andrue Pendas 7-1-2008
Tanner Biel 7-2-2000
Madelyn Auten 7-2-1999
Kyle Franzen 7-3-2002
Erik Dann 7-4-2002
Remington Harowski 7-5-2008
Noah Brookshire 7-5-2009
Zak Steiner 7-9-2007
Kaylib Stegall 7-9-2008
Spencer Skagerburg 7-9-2011
Cheyenne Larive 7-10-2001
Jackson Carothers – Stepaniak 7-11-2000
Emily McWilliams 7-12-2006
Breanna Timmons 7-16-1999
Alisha Hardenburgh 7-17-1998
Michelle Badalmenti 7-22-2005
Khloe-Jo Beery 7-22-2008
Jacob Beebe 7-23-2005
Madilyn Cunningham 7-24-2003
Shaun McWilliams 7-24-2007
Jewels Emerson 7-24-2008
Tristan Bedtelyon 7-24-2009
Landon Bedtelyon 7-24-2009
Brook St.Loious 7-25-2004
Noah Smith 7-21-2001
Angelo DeValle 7-28-2005
Joshua Lisiecki 7-29-1998
Levi Hardenburgh 7-30-2002
Alex Orr 7-31-2000
STAFF:
Mrs. Kait Schneider 7-4
Ms. Ellen Lahar 7- 18
Ms. Andrea Rodriguez 7-28
Mr. John Ransford 7-1
Mrs. Stephanie Adamson (Ms. D)7- 9

Saint Helen ORV Jamboree
August 12-14

By: Haley Jarosz
St. Helen is having its 8th annual ORV Jamboree on August 12th, 13th, 14th. The main events are the sand run, mud bog, and the ATV/UTV pull. Along with the ORV events, there will be vendor displays and silent auction items available. Registration forms and waiver forms available. Registration is \$20 and an additional \$10 for other events. You must be 18 or older or have an adult complete the waiver. Visit www.oryjamboree.org for rules, registration and waiver forms and other events happening. For more information, contact the St. Helen Chamber of Commerce at saint-helen_chamber@yahoo.com or call (989) 389-3725.

ORV JAMBOREE
ST. HELEN, MICHIGAN
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12th, 13th, 14th
2016
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Mud Bog ♦ Jr. Mud Bog
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BLUEGILL FESTIVAL

The Sailing Trip on Saginaw Bay



By: Corrin Damsen
On June 14, 2016 the 6th grade class went on a field trip to Bay City and got on a sailboat called Appledore IV. This sailboat is a schooner boat which originally was made to carry cargo and other supplies. The sailboat is 85 feet in length, weighs 72 tons, and the power is 135 HP diesel. As the sailboat began to move the students broke down into 3 groups. Mrs. Larm’s group was called “The Asian Carp”, Mr. Tice’s group was called “The Tice-nators”, and Mr. Greaves’ group was called “The Turtles.” The first three rotations were Weather, Knot Tying, and Wetlands. Dustin Romancky said in the weather rotation, they

learned about “what type of clouds there were and how much humidity could be in each kind.” Olivia Brown said that she enjoyed learning about tying different knots because they could be useful in life. Brook St. Louis said, “I liked spotting out wildlife,” when doing the wetland rotation. The second three rotations were Invasive species, Benthic Layer, Plankton. Invasive species are organisms that not native to the area. Some invasive species were previously native, then the ecosystem adapted to survive without them. When the species returns, they are considered invasive because the ecosystem can’t accommodate them in

a healthy way. During the Benthic Layer rotation students got to feel and discuss what the bottom of the Saginaw River feels like, and what types of critters live there. Dustin Romancky learned that the Benthic Layer is important because “it’s where the waste products go.” When students rotated to the Plankton, they went into the lower deck and looked through microscopes at water samples. The students got to see real plankton. “It even looks like Plankton from Spongebob Squarepants,” said many of the students. Ms. Catherine, the first mate of the sailboat, had us sit on the sailboat, stay quiet, and appreciate the bay. When we were done we talked about the 5 senses including what it sounded like and some people responded, “I could hear the waves hit the side of the boat.” The students got to help raise the sail, and say the commands as well. When it was time to dock the students had to be quiet so the crew could communicate to each other.



Charter School Essay Contest 2016



Sometimes charter schools get a bad representation of what we stand for. To celebrate our success and achievements and National School of Choice Week, National Charter Schools Institution sponsored the Michigan Charter Schools Essay Contest 2016. During the month of March, students in grades 6 and 7 participated in a state-wide, Michigan Charter School essay contest. This year’s theme was “what my charter school means to me”. Mrs. Larm and Ms. Johnson provided incentives for students who participated in the essay contest and submitted an entry. Two divisions of the essay contest took place, Middle School (6-8) and High School (9-12). In the middle school, 7 students submitted essays: Carisa Ryan, Natasha Meir, Dustin Romancky, Gavin Estep, Haley Jarosz, MaKayla Graham, and Neva Autio. Around 30 students from high school en-

tered in the essay! All students who submitted essays were published in a charter school book. Cash prizes were awarded for first through 3rd place winners. Two of CHA’s very own students received awards. Gavin Estep, 7th grade, was congratulated for his excellence in describing how his charter school (CHA) has impacted his life, receiving 4th place. Gavin was given a printed award and a thank you letter from the Vice President of

the National Charter School Institution. Brogen Harger, 11th grade, was awarded 2nd place in the state of Michigan! Brogen received a \$250 check and was presented the award during lunch in front of his classmates by Mr. Cooper, Vice President of the National Charter School Institution. Mr. Cooper said that there were “stacks of entries” and Brogen’s was selected! Brogen wrote his essay on “How the school approaches every student individually and not as a whole.” He also said that he’s really appreciated how CHA has opened doors for him and given him opportunities to be successful. Brogen has big plans for his future after CHA. He’s interested in Attending Ferris State University or somewhere in Florida to major in health sciences and triple minor in psychology, criminal justice, and political science. Charlton Heston Academy supports and thanks all students for participating and submitting such great essays.



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at the

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The Official 67th Annual

St. Helen Bluegill Festival

Guide and Schedule



July 14-17, 2016

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