

THE VAN NESS VOICE

March 2026

Upcoming Events

Thursday, March 12th	Shakespeare Field Trip/Evening Performance
Friday, March 13th	CSA/CSAMS Spirit Wear
Wednesday, March 18th	Math Term Two Final Exam
Friday, March 20th	Last Day of Term Two
Week of March 23rd	Battle of the Books Trivia Competition
Friday, March 27th	CSA/CSAMS Spirit Wear
Friday, March 27th	Report Cards Sent Home
Week of March 30th	No School - Spring Break

Battle of the Books:

March is Reading Month!
Get ready for an exciting showdown of reading knowledge! In March, we will host our first annual “Battle of the Books”: a fast-paced trivia competition where students go head-to-head by answering questions based on novels from a pre-selected reading list. Participants will put their comprehension, teamwork, and recall skills to the test as they compete for bragging rights and schoolwide recognition. It’s a fun and engaging way to celebrate reading, encourage thoughtful discussion of literature, and spark a little friendly competition. Let the reading—and the battle—begin!



Contact Info
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CSA EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

- **Math:**

This month, students will be exploring concepts of algebraic equations (Foundations Math), proportions, discounts, markups, and simple interest (Applied Math); data analysis and displays and functions (Intro to Integrated Math), exponential functions and data analysis and displays and Integrated I Math); and probability and relationships with triangles (Integrated II Math).

- **Literature:**

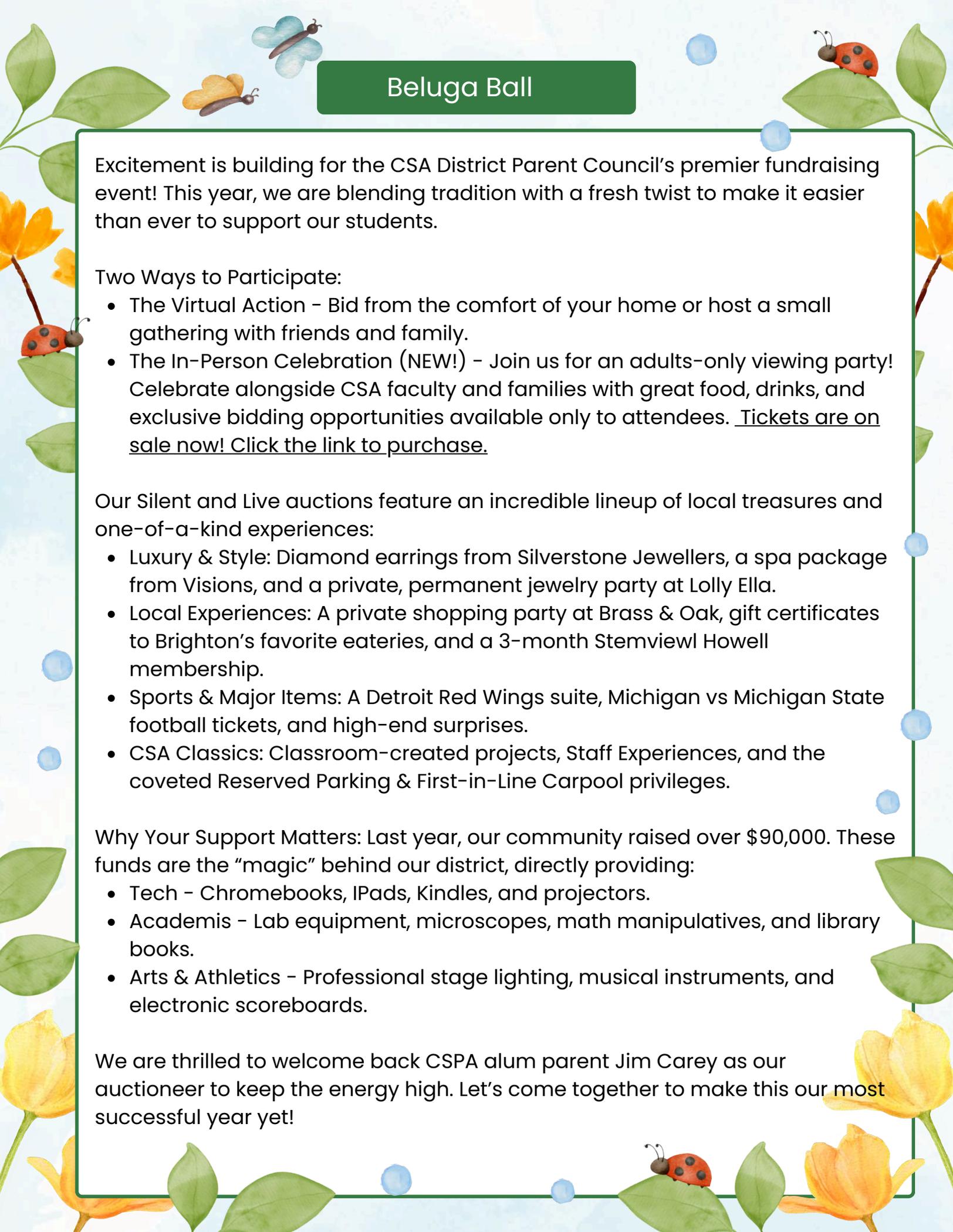
Building on our Term 2 Read Aloud study that started in February, students will spend the coming weeks diving deep into characterization and the timeless themes of S.E. Hinton's novel, *The Outsiders*. They will craft a heartfelt eulogy for a major character and will sharpen their academic writing by composing a literary essay on the theme of conflict, featuring direct evidence from the text. To bridge the gap between media, we will also view the film adaptation to analyze the similarities and differences between the two. Finally, students curate character playlists, drawing connections between contemporary lyrics and the lives of the Greasers and Socs.

- **Science:**

In this month's Engineering Internship, students play the role of chemical engineering interns at Futura Engineering. They will consider the design problem of how to create an incubator that considers three criteria: keep the baby's average temperature close to 37°C, minimize the time outside the healthy temperature range, and keep costs low. Students use the BabyWarmer Design Tool to collect and analyze data about their designs, complete iterative tests, and learn about optimizing designs. By the end of this unit, students will compose a written proposal that supports their optimal designs for making an effective portable incubator, while managing the trade-offs among the project criteria.

- **Social Studies:**

This month, students will be finishing our unit on Ancient Greece. We will be ending the unit with a culminating project that students have already been having a great time working on. After this unit, we will be moving into Ancient Rome where we will continue to learn about the ancient world, early forms of government, and what contributes to both the rise and fall of these civilizations. This unit will continue up until spring break, where we will end the unit with a summative assessment.



Beluga Ball

Excitement is building for the CSA District Parent Council's premier fundraising event! This year, we are blending tradition with a fresh twist to make it easier than ever to support our students.

Two Ways to Participate:

- The Virtual Action - Bid from the comfort of your home or host a small gathering with friends and family.
- The In-Person Celebration (NEW!) - Join us for an adults-only viewing party! Celebrate alongside CSA faculty and families with great food, drinks, and exclusive bidding opportunities available only to attendees. [Tickets are on sale now! Click the link to purchase.](#)

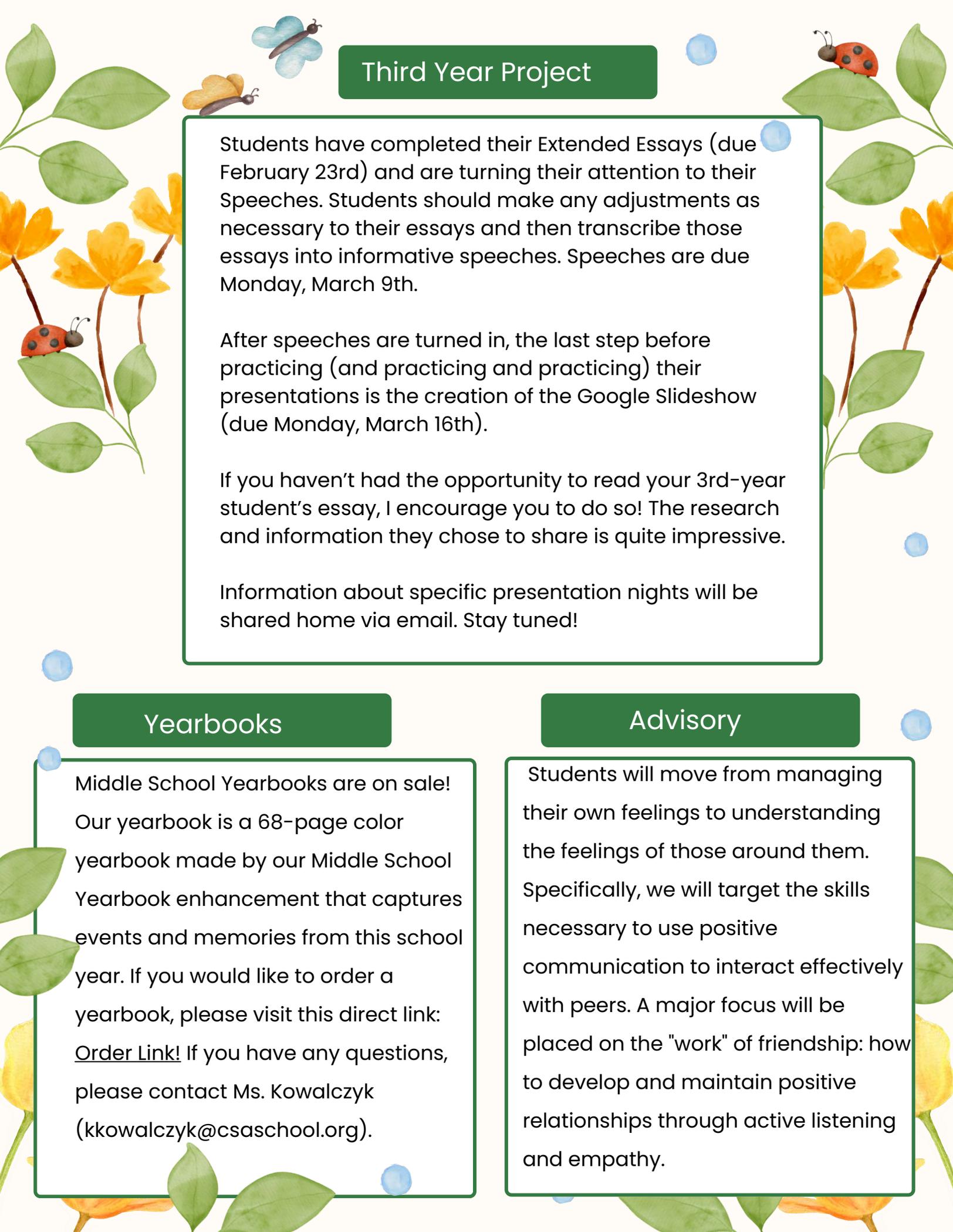
Our Silent and Live auctions feature an incredible lineup of local treasures and one-of-a-kind experiences:

- Luxury & Style: Diamond earrings from Silverstone Jewellers, a spa package from Visions, and a private, permanent jewelry party at Lolly Ella.
- Local Experiences: A private shopping party at Brass & Oak, gift certificates to Brighton's favorite eateries, and a 3-month Stemviewl Howell membership.
- Sports & Major Items: A Detroit Red Wings suite, Michigan vs Michigan State football tickets, and high-end surprises.
- CSA Classics: Classroom-created projects, Staff Experiences, and the coveted Reserved Parking & First-in-Line Carpool privileges.

Why Your Support Matters: Last year, our community raised over \$90,000. These funds are the "magic" behind our district, directly providing:

- Tech - Chromebooks, iPads, Kindles, and projectors.
- Academics - Lab equipment, microscopes, math manipulatives, and library books.
- Arts & Athletics - Professional stage lighting, musical instruments, and electronic scoreboards.

We are thrilled to welcome back CSPA alum parent Jim Carey as our auctioneer to keep the energy high. Let's come together to make this our most successful year yet!



Third Year Project

Students have completed their Extended Essays (due February 23rd) and are turning their attention to their Speeches. Students should make any adjustments as necessary to their essays and then transcribe those essays into informative speeches. Speeches are due Monday, March 9th.

After speeches are turned in, the last step before practicing (and practicing and practicing) their presentations is the creation of the Google Slideshow (due Monday, March 16th).

If you haven't had the opportunity to read your 3rd-year student's essay, I encourage you to do so! The research and information they chose to share is quite impressive.

Information about specific presentation nights will be shared home via email. Stay tuned!

Yearbooks

Middle School Yearbooks are on sale! Our yearbook is a 68-page color yearbook made by our Middle School Yearbook enhancement that captures events and memories from this school year. If you would like to order a yearbook, please visit this direct link: [Order Link!](#) If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Kowalczyk (kkowalczyk@csaschool.org).

Advisory

Students will move from managing their own feelings to understanding the feelings of those around them. Specifically, we will target the skills necessary to use positive communication to interact effectively with peers. A major focus will be placed on the "work" of friendship: how to develop and maintain positive relationships through active listening and empathy.

PICTURE PAGE

Shown here:
Snow Tubing Field Trip Fun,
Activity Night, Spirit Wear Days,
Van Fam class pic

