



Commitment to  
Excellence

# THE COMMUNICATOR

A Quarterly Publication of Blissfield Community Schools



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Excellence

## *From the Superintendent*



Across our nation there are increasing concerns about the high rates of childhood obesity. Student's access to healthy food and physical activity is of utmost importance in preventing obesity-related concerns. Schools more than any other social institution play a critical role in helping to shape a child's healthy habits. Habits,

that when established early may provide lifelong benefits. At Blissfield Community Schools, this begins by students learning the importance of a balanced diet and regular exercise during their elementary years and continues in physical education, health, science, and life management courses throughout their schooling. Providing balanced breakfast and lunch menu options also helps promote these concepts on a daily basis, which are reinforced beyond the school day through participation in After School Assets, intramural sports, and interscholastic athletic programs.

A concern shared by all educators was recently confirmed through a report commissioned by the Sodexo Foundation. "When children don't eat breakfast, their cognitive capacity is impaired because their brains do not have sufficient fuel for learning". When children fail to receive sufficient dietary energy, particularly in the mornings, their cognitive capacity is impaired since their brains do not have the fuel needed for attention, concentration, and learning. Serving children breakfast at school significantly improves their cognitive or mental abilities, enabling them to be more alert, pay better attention, enhance their reading and mathematics skills, and standardized test scores. In an attempt to address these concerns, our Food Services program provides students at Blissfield Elementary a balanced breakfast before school each morning, and immediately following first period classes at Blissfield Middle and High School during their scheduled Mid-Morning Break. Both of these initiatives are designed to promote students eating healthy, knowing the importance it plays in their learning throughout the day and their overall well-being.

During the past year, members of our District Wellness Committee have joined forces with representatives from the Village of Blissfield to promote community walking and bicycling through the *Safe Routes to School* program, and are currently evaluating the safety of these routes with hopes of pursuing future enhancements. Furthermore, the Wellness Committee chaired by Lisa Babbitt, Middle School Physical Education Instructor and Char Horky, District Food Service Director completed a thorough review of district vending machines, including their contents and student access during the school day. As a result, consistent vending expectations were established promoting non-carbonated and low calorie beverages.

At Blissfield Community Schools, we are committed to developing sound minds and strong bodies. We appreciate your continued support of these efforts. As with most school initiatives, the likelihood of our success increases dramatically when students, parents, teachers and community members work together toward attaining common goals.

Sincerely,

*Scott D. Moellenberndt*

## Blissfield Community Schools District Calendar of Upcoming Events

Apr 6-10	Spring Recess
Apr 13	School Resumes
Apr 17	Lenawee County Fine Arts Festival
Apr 18	Middle School Solo & Ensemble Earth Day
Apr 20	Board of Education Meeting
Apr 25	High School Prom
May 1	Progress Reports Distributed
May 5	School Board Election
May 7	Elementary Recorder Concert
May 7-9	Middle School Play
May 11	Kdg & 1st Grade Music Program
May 12	3rd & 4th Grade Music Program
May 14	5th & 6th Grade Fine Arts Night
May 15	Hoops for Heart
May 16	7-12 Grade Band College
May 18	Board of Education Meeting
May 20-22	8th Grade Camp Begins
May 25	No School/Memorial Day
May 26	Academic Awards Night
May 28	Baccalaureate
May 29	Graduation
May 30	District Baseball/Softball Tournament
June 2	Elementary Purple & Gold Day
June 3	Full Day Exams
June 4	Full Day Exams/Last Day of School
June 6	Regional Baseball/Softball Tournament
June 15	Board of Education Meeting

## Career and Counseling Center Welcomes Two New Members



**Louise Keinath**, recently joined the counseling staff as our new Behavioral Specialist. Louise earned her Master's Degree in school and community counseling from Spring Arbor University, and received her School Guidance Counseling license from the State of

Michigan, along with certification for LLPC status, (Limited License Professional Counselor). Louise will provide student support services through individual and group counseling, addressing topics such as school success, divorce, family dysfunction, grief issues, anger management, bullying, dating violence and drug/alcohol abuse. To discuss concerns regarding your son or daughter, please contact Louise each weekday from 10:00 - 2:00pm at (517) 486-2148 ext. 273.



**Jolene Nofzinger** joined the CCC staff in January as our Office Aide, where she provides general clerical support and administration for the counseling office. Her many areas of responsibility include standardized testing, student scheduling, transcripts and scholarship information.

Jolene brings a variety of human resource experiences to the CCC staff through her previous roles in banking and manufacturing. Parents and students may reach Jolene for assistance or to request information at (517) 486-2148 ext 203.

## New Face at the Middle School



**Jolene Witt** joins the Blissfield Middle School staff as the Administrative Assistant in the Middle School office. Jolene is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University, and has held similar positions in the past at Deerfield Public Schools and the Lenawee ISD. She is excited to be a part of the Blissfield School system

and is looking forward to a long and rewarding career. Jolene lives in Deerfield with her husband and three daughters on the family farm. In her spare time, she loves to read, write, and be outdoors.

## Attention Parents

Do not miss your chance to give your graduating senior a special and lasting memory in the 2008 yearbook. Order forms for senior ads are now available at Blissfield High School or by contacting Matthew Cook at 486-2148 ext. 1000 or by email at: [mcook@blissfieldschools.us](mailto:mcook@blissfieldschools.us). Deadline is April 1.

## PLAN and EXPLORE Information

Beginning this school year, the EXPLORE and PLAN (Pre-ACT) tests were given to BHS students. Ninth grade students took the EXPLORE test, while 10th grade students took the PLAN. Both exams were given on March 10th at no cost to the student. These tests are part of the ACT program and will help students identify academic strengths as well as areas needing improvement prior to taking the Michigan Merit Exam in 11th grade. For results/questions, please contact the Counseling office at 486-2148 x 203.

## PSAT Information

PSAT (pre-SAT and National Merit Scholar Qualifying Test) will be given to eleventh grade students beginning next fall. This is not a mandatory test, however, students are encouraged to take the test if they plan to take the SAT test for college entrance. In addition, the PSAT is the initial opportunity for students to participate in the National Merit Scholarship Competition. Students will be given information for the PSAT in their US History classes in early May. Test materials must be ordered prior to the conclusion of the school year, so students must register prior to summer break. If parents have questions or concerns, or would like to sign their students up in advance. Please call the Counseling office at 486-2148 x 203.

## Social Studies at the Middle School

Mr. McVay's classes recently studied the Saharan and Sahel Regions of Northern Africa. The students are learning about the physical features and adaptation challenges that the people from this region have to apply to their lives as a means of survival. The overall assignment was to create a poster of Buddha, Confucius, or Laozi and perform a first person presentation of that character comparing/contrasting him with modern American society.

Pictured below is Kelsey McEwan portraying Laozi in an effort to better understand similarities and differences between Chinese culture and American society.



## Coming Home Festivities

February 2-6 was Coming Home Week at Blissfield High School. The Student Council conducted many spirit events throughout the week, which concluded Friday afternoon with a Pep Assembly recognizing 2009 winter season athletes, Iron-Man Volleyball competition (guys from each grade compete), and the Teacher Pie-in-the-Face Contest. The culmination of the week was the Varsity Boys Basketball game vs. Erie Mason. At the game, the 2009 Coming Home King and Queen candidates were presented as well as the floats from each grade.



Gerardo Ramirez, dressed as the Trix Rabbit, and Grace Renwand, representing Tony the Tiger, were chosen this years Coming Home King and Queen. The theme for Coming Home was cereal characters.

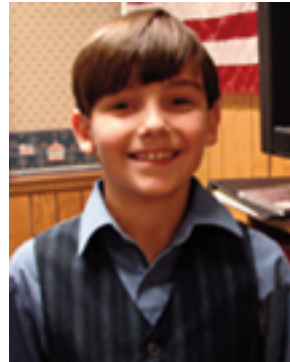
During Coming Home Week, the Student Council organized a Teacher Pie-in-the-Face contest. Throughout the week, students were encouraged to buy tickets to pie teachers during the Pep Assembly. Mr. Wernette, Mr. Weston, Mr. Hollandsworth, and Mrs. Judkins were the honorary teachers selected to be pied. As a result of their efforts, the Student Council raised \$450.00 to donate to the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen in Adrian. Thanks to everyone involved for all of their support throughout the week!



Pictured above high school teachers, Laura Denkins, Kerri Judkins, Mark Hollandsworth, and Dave Weston.

## Principal for the Day

Two winning tickets from the Frankenmuth Fundraiser earned Jarrod Miller and Lexi Cantu the opportunity to be Blissfield Elementary School's "Principal for the Day." Jarrod Miller is a fourth grader in Mrs. Morrison's class and assumed his duties in January. While in March Lexi Cantu, a third grader in Mrs. Keswick's class was selected "Principal for the Day." Each student spent their day making announcements, supervising students, observing classroom lessons, and answering the requests from students, parents, and teachers. Jarrod and Lexi enjoyed their day and gained a new appreciation for Mrs. Crane's duties.



## H.S. Scheduling Requests

BHS student course requests have been submitted for next school year. An electronic scheduling program will be utilized to assign class periods to their requests. As in the past, students will not be allowed to make schedule changes except for dual enrollment or Tech Center vacancies. Thank you to the staff, students, and families for devoting their time in selecting courses designed to best meet our individual students' needs.

## Authors Visit Elementary

On March 3 Blissfield Elementary was honored to host Laura and Robert Sams who created the film *Lost in the Woods* based on the written book by Carl Sams and Jean Stoick. The film won the prestigious 2006 Wildscreen Panda Award for the best children's wildlife film worldwide. Laura and Robert create films, music, and host educational media assemblies. Their work has appeared on PBS, as well as in many international film festivals. They have recently authored a book entitled *Pirate's Quest*, and created the new film, *Riddle in a Bottle*.

Laura and Robert presented age appropriate programs on *Lost in the Woods* for each grade level, which was greatly enjoyed by all who attended.



# Blissfield High School is honored to present our top ten academic students from the class of 2009.

Students are listed alphabetically.



**Steven Michael Hoeft** is the son of Richard and Patricia Parrott. He plans to attend the University of Michigan to pursue a major in Biomedical Engineering. His academic distinctions include receiving Presidential Honors and High Honors. While at BMS he participated in Quiz Bowl, Government Club, National Society of High School

Scholars, BLISS Mentor Program. His favorite memory is Spanish I class and all the congenial people he met when he first arrived as a new student.

**Amanda Marie Laberde** is the daughter of Patrick and Judy Laberde. She plans on attending Central Michigan University to earn a Biology or Health Science major in pursuit of becoming a Physician Assistant. Her academic distinctions include being named to Who's Who in America's High Schools,



Regional Science Fair Finalist (2006), State Science Fair Honors (2006), BHS Band Most Outstanding Freshman, Central Michigan University Board of Trustees Academic Elite Honors Award, and MME Promise Scholarship. She participated in BHS Honors Society, Marching and Concert Band, Student Council (currently Vice President), BLISS Mentor, Solo & Ensemble, Dance Absolute Competitive Dance Team (Saline), Bethel United Church of Christ Youth Group and Choir, and Junior Rotarian. Her favorite memories at BHS are attending the football games, planning Student Council activities, attending formal and informal dances, and taking part in band activities. She also has great memories of working with and learning from the teachers and administrators.

## Academic Honors Night

Academic Honors Night is May 26th. At this time, we will recognize the top ten students of the class of 2009 as well as scholarship recipients. Students will also be recognized for outstanding performance in each curricular area. Parents and family members are encouraged to attend to celebrate these outstanding academic accomplishments.



**Danny Thomas MacBeth Jr.** is the son of Danny and Tonya MacBeth. He plans on attending Michigan State University to pursue a degree Engineering. While at BHS, he was active in the Marching Band, Jazz Band, Honor Society, 4-H, BLISS Mentor, Prom Committee, District Technology Committee, and was Senior Class President. His favorite memories are band bus rides, Mr. Weston's

class, and playing his guitar after school.

**Alexander William Mitchell** is the son of Roger and Stacy Mitchell. He plans to attend Michigan State University and will pursue a degree in Journalism. While at Blissfield High School, his distinctions include 2nd Team All-LCAA (2007), 1st Team All-LCAA (2008), and Honorable Mention All Lenawee County (2008) for football, English 9 and 10



Student of the Year, Scholar Athlete (3 years), Honor Society (4 years), and Honor Roll (4 years). He was involved in Varsity Football, Track, BLISS Mentor, Forensics Team, and Junior Rotarian. His favorite memories include going to State Football Championship Game at Ford Field, hanging out with Mr. Angel in English 11, and spending time with his friends, Jeff Lusk and Cody Raich.

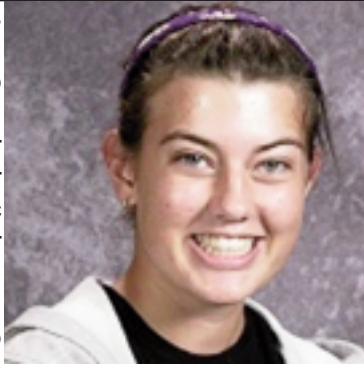


**Margaret Hope Morrison** is the daughter of Jeffrey and Mary Ann Morrison. She is undecided at this time whether she will pursue either Environmental Science at Siena Heights University or Ecology at the University of Toledo. Her special awards include a Presidential Scholarship from Heidelberg

College, Regents Scholarship from Eastern Michigan University, Tower Scholarship from University of Toledo, Trustee Scholarship from Adrian College, Michigan Promise Scholarship, 2nd place at Tri-County Science Fair, FFA Junior Achievement Award, 2nd place in Environmental Skills Contest, 2nd place at State in Ag-Issues. She participated in FFA, Play Productions, BLISS Mentor, and Blissfield Honor Society. Her favorite memories while at BHS are The Lounge Lizards, and conventions and competitions in the FFA.

# 2009 Top Ten Students

**Grace Elizabeth Renwand** is the daughter of William and Amy Renwand. She plans to attend Northern Michigan University and major in either History or Public Relations. Her distinctions include Academic Honors, Athletic Award for Soccer, DAR Good Citizen Award, and Honor Roll, and Rotary Youth Leadership Award. While at BHS she participated in Soccer, Class Council as Vice President, Student Council, Honor Society, Marching and Concert Band, BLISS Mentor, Junior Rotarian, Musicals, Plays, Girl Scouts, 5th grade camp leader, and Save the Flag project. Her favorite memories are spirit weeks, pep assemblies, dances, and band performances.



**Michael Robert Shoemaker** is the son of Kevin and Nancy Shoemaker. He plans on attending the University of Michigan College of Engineering to obtain a degree in Mechanical Engineering. His distinctions at BHS include Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Chemistry, and Science 10 Student of the Year, and Junior Rotarian. He participated in Boy Scouts, Track and Field, Blissfield Honor Society, BLISS Mentor, Prom Committee, Class Council, and Student Council. Favorite memories he has are of the Prom, After Prom, Spring Fling and sports.



**Tyler Rumler** is the son of Steven and Veronica Rumler. He is planning on attending Michigan State University to achieve a Bachelor Degree in Mechanical Engineering. His special awards and activities include Good Work Habits award (LISD Tech Center), Academic Excellence (3 years), National FFA Organization, and the Honor Society. His favorite memories are Homecoming Dinner in 2008, and pie in the face contest at the pep assembly.



**Jordan Alexander Streby** is the son of Paul and Barbara Streby. He plans on attending Michigan State University to pursue a degree in Environmental Engineering and then transfer to the University of Michigan or the Air Force Academy. He has received the following scholarships and awards; National English Merit Award, Social Studies Academic Award, National Merit Scholarship, and the Creative Writing Award. Other distinctions include National Honor Society, Principals Honor List, Honor Roll, Honorable Mention All County Goalie, Co-Captain of Varsity Soccer team, Golf, and LCAA Academic All League Team. Playing sports, meeting people and making friends, mentoring, being a 5th grade camp leader, serving on Prom Committee, and lunch with friends are some of his favorite memories.

**Sarah Shields** is the daughter of Steven and Kendra Shields. She plans on pursuing a Music Education degree at Bowling Green State University or Western Michigan University. Her special awards include being chosen for the Lenawee County Honors Band, Bowling Green State University Honors Band, and Solo Ensemble District and State. While at BHS, she participated in Blissfield Honor Society, BLISS Mentor, Musicals, Band, was Drum Majorette, and Class Council Secretary.



## Michigan Promise Scholarship

The Michigan Promise Scholarship is a \$4000 scholarship that students earn by achieving qualifying scores through the MME exam. Those students who achieve a level 1 or 2 on the MME exam will receive up to \$1,000 per academic year for each of their first two years of college enrollment and up to \$2,000 after the completion of two years of post secondary education with at least a 2.5 GPA. Students with valid scores below level 2 on the MME subtests are still eligible to earn the Promise Scholarship. Upon successfully completing two years of post secondary school in Michigan.

## Wacky Wednesday

Dr. Seuss's book, "Wacky Wednesday", was the basis for some wonderful, wild, and wacky fun in Mrs. Griffith's room. Not only did students wear wacky clothes, such as shirts inside out and backwards, they had silly hairdos, reversed the daily schedule, and even sang the ABC's backward!



Students in Mrs Griffith's class on "Wacky Wednesday".

## High School Prom

On Saturday, April 25, Blissfield High School will have their annual prom. The prom will be held at LaRoy Hall in Ida. It will be a night of fun and dancing for high school students and their dates as we celebrate the theme, "Midnight Masquerade." Be sure to purchase your tickets early. They will be sold in the cafeteria during lunch periods. Tickets are \$45 per couple or \$30 for single. This is a formal event, so reserve your tuxedo or gown for a memorable night at the "Midnight Masquerade."



## TECH Center Students Honored

The following students were recognized for their excellent work habits during the second nine week marking period of the 2008-09 school year at the LISD TECH-Center. Positive work habits are a key component of LISD TECH-Center curriculum constituting 40% of the students' grades. These students demonstrated responsibility, dependability, and a positive attitude toward work. Excellence in additional work habits included initiative and effort, efficiency, cooperation, safety, and the ability to follow directions.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Area</u>
William Becker	Building Trades
Chelsea Blanton	Dental Aide
Zachary Chestnutwood	Engineering, Design, CAD
Courtney Knadler	Dental Aide
Aaron Lowell	Engineering, Design, CAD
Taylor Nelson	Nursing Prep
Matthew Porter	Engineering, Design, CAD
Tyler Rumler	Machine Trades
Karl Schmelzer	Graphic Image Tech
Allen Schnieder	Machine Trades
Andrew Snyder	Residential Construction
Joshua Swift	Residential Construction
Jordan Winkleman	Building Trade

## English Students Honored

The High School English Department proudly announces the winners of the English "Student of the Month" Award. Each student is nominated for outstanding performance in his or her respective English class. Students receive a certificate of achievement and their photo is displayed recognizing their honors.

Pictured below are the students selected during January and February.



English students for January were Anthony Renwand (9), Tue Larson (10), and Olivia Keinath (11).



English students for February were Allison Papenhagen (9), Lauren Yates (10), and Matthew Porter (11).

## 2-1-1 Now Available in Lenawee County

Dialing 2-1-1 is an easy way for an individual to connect with resources throughout our community. Finding help can often be confusing and intimidating, while people who want to assist may not know where to begin. The 2-1-1 call center is staffed by nationally certified specialists who quickly assess the callers' needs and refers them to the resources they need. It's simple to remember, accessible to everyone at no cost, and available 24/7, with multilingual capabilities.

## Student Loan Program

Blissfield High School Graduates have available a unique student loan program. Criteria to qualify for the 0% A.P.R. loan are as follows:

1. You must be a graduate of Blissfield Community Schools.
2. Continued advances of \$1000 per college semester will continue as long as a minimum grade point average of C or above is maintained.
3. 12 credit hours or more must be maintained to receive continued advances.
4. 0% A.P.R. up to 5 years from the time the loan was taken out.

Other rules may apply and can be discussed with Sue Gniewkowski or Daniel Garno in the Blissfield Community Schools, Administrative Office (517) 486-2205.

## Travel Back to Medieval Times through the Fine Arts Department

Blissfield Fine Arts is pleased to announce two events that will allow you and your family to journey back through time to the days of kings and queens, damsels in distress, and chivalrous knights.

March 26-28 you are encouraged to join us for the High School Spring Musical, *Once Upon a Mattress*. This hilarious spoof of the classic fairy tale, *The Princess and the Pea*, features the students of the Blissfield Thespian Society, the high school Musical Theatre Class, and the Blissfield Drama Club. Performances will be held on the high school stage at 7:00pm each evening, with a matinee at 3:00pm on Saturday, March 28th. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for students and senior citizens, and \$2.00 for children 12 and under. Matinee tickets are half price for all. Will Prince Dauntless live happily ever after with the moat-swimming but sweet Princess Winifred—or will the wicked Queen Aggravain interfere once again? Will Lady Larken and Sir Harry ever be able to reveal their secret, or will they and the entire kingdom be forced to remain under the curse of the horrible marriage law? Join us and find out if our heroes the King, the Minstrel, and the Jester can save the day.

Next, please plan to join the students of Blissfield Middle School on May 8-10 as they present two one-act plays, *The Ever After* and *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. *The Ever After* is a comedic reunion of your favorite fairy tale characters. Cinderella and her step sisters reunite, Snow White faces the Wicked Queen again as the enchanted mirror tells all, and a handsome prince seeks a kiss before he turns back into a frog! In Mark Twain's classic, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, young Hank is transported from modern times back to the days of Sir Lancelot and Merlin the Wizard. His new ideas and amazing skills make him seem quite magical, but a secret plot to overthrow the king could make Hank's return trip to his school in Connecticut an impossibility. Join us on Thursday and Friday, May 8-9 at 7pm, and Saturday, May 10th at 3:00pm on the Middle School Stage. Admission is \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students.

## Sophomores Visit Tech Center

BHS sophomores visited the LISD Tech Center (formerly Vo-Tech) on Wednesday, February 4, 2009. Students were able to attend three courses they designated earlier in the year. Many students were excited to see the many options the Tech Center has to offer.



Mackenzie Knapp (left) learns to draw blood, while Emily Wolf, Emily Scholl, and Lauren Lievens (right) learn about the activities in the nursing prep program.

## Sports Physicals 2009-10

Sports physicals for 2009-2010 school year will be provided on Wednesday, May 6th at Blissfield Middle School. Physicals are available for students currently enrolled in grades 6-11 and the cost is \$15. Students must sign up in advance through the Athletic Office. All athletes must have a current physical on file before they can participate in athletics next school year.

## "A Royal Voice"

Seven students in Mrs. Porter's Fifth Grade Class have been writing a monthly newspaper throughout the school year. As members of the newspaper staff, they develop ideas and topics to write about, while highlighting a "Student and Teacher of the Month." Interviews are conducted using questions determined by the newspaper staff. Other students in the class are also welcome to submit articles for the publication, which often includes exciting elementary events, such as Make A Difference Day, B.E.L.L. animals, and a tribute to Bill Ames, a man who portrayed Abraham Lincoln on Heritage Day. The newspaper is published once a month and copies are available in the elementary office.



The staff of "A Royal Voice" includes Jacob Mason, Marley Griffith, Brady Griffith, David DeVantier, Brooke Pickles, Madison Griffith, and Sierra Dennis.

## Math Students Donate to United Nations

Students in Mrs. Lewis's middle school math classes have had some friendly competitions while helping build their math skills, as well as helping feed the hungry of the United Nations. Using the website, [www.freerice.com](http://www.freerice.com) students develop skills in math, geography, foreign languages, art, English, and chemistry. For every correct answer the students complete, 10 grains of rice are donated to the United Nations.

On March 5, Jessica Fischer donated the most grains of rice in a half-hour period with a total of 4,290 grains. The students were excited to see their progress as the rice bowls on their screens filled. While math skills are the main focus, the idea of helping feed the hungry is another motivator for using the site.



Chelsea Rohlan and Shelby Bates help feed the poor while brushing up on math skills.

## Wrestlers Compete at State Tournament

Three members of the varsity wrestling team members qualified to compete at the MHSAA State Tournament March 12-14. Cameron Barnes, a junior, with a record of 33-19 qualified at 103 lbs. Eric Ford, a junior, finished 7th in the state in his 171 lbs. weight class, while concluding the season with a 45-7 record. Freshman, Chase Lewis finished as Division 4 State Runner-Up at his 103 lbs. weight class. Chase concluded the season with a record of 42-6, and became the first Blissfield freshman to win more than 40 matches in a season and place at the MHSSA State Tournament.



Pictured above is Chase Lewis after winning the 103 pound weight class at the Lenawee County Tournament.

## Giving Back

You and the Law classes welcomed Mr. Evan Loader (Class of 2002) as a guest speaker on March 6. Mr. Loader spoke to the class about his experiences in Law School and his work with the Monroe County Prosecutor's Office. He spoke of the hard work required to become a lawyer, and answered student questions about both his job and the field of law. Thank you Mr. Loader for the time and effort you give to the community.



Pictured above is Mr. Evan Loader with You and the Law students Matthew Rodesiler and Michael Marine.

## School Board Election May 5, 2009

Voters in the Blissfield School District will select one new member to our School Board for a four-year term during an election on May 5, 2009.

Candidates seeking election are Zola Farrar and Vicky Lombard.

The last day to register to vote is Monday, April 6, 2009

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