



# THE COMMUNICATOR

A Quarterly Publication of Blissfield Community Schools



## *From the Superintendent*



Contrary to the school calendar revisions that were disseminated prior to Spring Recess, Blissfield Community Schools will now only need to add seven and one-half school days to the 2013-14 calendar, which is two days less than originally anticipated. Due to the excessive number of school cancellations that occurred statewide this winter, Governor Snyder recently increased the number of the school days the state will waive during the 2013-14 school year. Therefore, students will continue to be in session for a half-day on Thursday, April 17th followed by Parent-Teacher Conferences from 12:30-3:30pm and 5:00-8:00pm. All seven additional make-up days have been added to the end of the school year, resulting in the last day of school now being Wednesday, June 18. The previously scheduled half-days of June 6 and 9 will become full days of instruction while June 17 and 18 will be half-day sessions. Commencement for graduating seniors will remain on Friday, May 30, 2014 as originally scheduled.

Please join us in recognizing the outstanding achievements of District Athletic Director, Steve Babbitt who was recently honored by the Michigan Athletic Administrators Association as their Region VI Athletic Director of the Year, and Fifth Grade Teacher, Gary Koppelman who is one of only five teachers throughout the nation to have been selected as a 2014 National Teacher Hall of Fame inductee. To date, 115 teachers have received this distinction from the NTHF located in Emporia, Kansas. Further congratulations are extended to Varsity Girls Basketball Coach, Ryan Gilbert who was selected Class "C" Coach of the Year, and Senior Captain, Claire Denecker upon being named to the Class "C" All-State Girls Basketball 1st Team. Well Done!

We also wish to acknowledge the academic success of our 8th grade students at Blissfield Middle School who ranked first in MEAP Mathematics and Science amongst Lenawee county schools. MEAP test results for students in grades 3-9 demonstrated improvement and exceed state and county averages in 13 of the 18 areas tested. In the near future, 6th & 7th grade students will participate in pilot testing for the new online Smarter-Balanced assessment that is slated to replace MEAP testing in the spring of 2015.

Parents are encouraged to pick-up their child's 3rd Quarter report card and MEAP testing results while attending Parent-Teacher Conferences on Thursday, April 17. This will be a half-day for students with conference sessions being held district-wide from 12:30-3:30pm, and 5:00-8:00pm. There will be no school for students on Friday, April 18.

Kindergarten Roundup was held on March 18th with fifty-three

students having enrolled to date. Parents with pre-school age children are reminded of the recent legislative changes that now require a child to be five years old by October 1st to begin kindergarten. The Great Start Readiness Program is also accepting applications for the 2014-15 school year for qualifying four year old students.

Petitions are now available for candidates interested in running for the Blissfield Board of Education. School board elections occur in November of even numbered years with elected members serving six year terms. Petitions for three seats currently held by Scott Abbott, Noel Eisenmann, and Vicki Lombard will appear on the November 4th general election ballot. Candidates may secure petitions by contacting Blissfield Township Clerk, Nancy Cranor and must file by the 4:00pm deadline on July 22, 2014.

As the weather warms during the month of April, you are encouraged to attend one of the many spring athletic events we are hosting at Blissfield Community Schools. We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to the many "Loyal Royals" who have demonstrated tremendous support of our District Fine Arts and Athletic programs through their recent attendance at festivals, musicals, plays, and traveling to follow our Lady Royals Girls Basketball team as they advanced throughout the state playoffs. On the last page of this publication you will find a listing of other upcoming school events you may find of particular interest.

Sincerely,

*Scott D. Moellenberndt*

## MEAP Scores Improve

Blissfield Middle School students celebrated individual and school success on the Fall 2013 MEAP Test. Pictured are recipients of the Student Council sponsored giveaway which included a variety of gift cards to local and online stores as well as a Kindle Fire, 2 iPod Touches and 2 iPad Minis. Students were excited to learn that they improved on 8 of 9 tests and that our 8th Graders were the top school in Lenawee County in both Math and Science. A big thank you goes to Student Council for providing the prizes, to the teachers who enthusiastically prepared students for testing, and the students themselves for giving their best effort on the tests!



## Hall of Fame Teacher

Blissfield Community Schools is proud to announce Blissfield Elementary School Fifth Grade Teacher, Gary Koppelman, is among the newest class of inductees named to the National Teacher Hall of Fame. Family, colleagues and fifth grade students cheered Mr. Koppelman on during a surprise ceremony on March 28th. Lindy Whetzel, Chair of NTHF Board of Trustees, and Shirley Naples, a member of the first class of inductees in 1992 and the only other Michigan teacher inducted were on hand to present Mr. Koppelman with his award. Also on hand for this momentous event were State Representative, Nancy Jenkins, Dustin Krasny, Representing Congressman Tim Walberg, who spoke about the importance of schools for the future of our state. Kiel Cartwright & Kayla Taylor, Sales Representatives for Herff Jones were on hand and will be presenting Mr. Koppelman with a gold ring commemorating his status as a hall of fame teacher. Mr. Koppelman will travel to Kansas, the site of the Hall of Fame for a formal induction ceremony in June. Mr. Koppelman gave an inspiring speech about overcoming difficulties and never giving up. He talked about his teachers' roles in inspiring him to pursue his calling as a teacher. Congratulations Mr. Koppelman on your induction! You are inspiring a whole new group of young minds each day.



Fifth grade teacher, Mr. Gary Koppelman, is among the five teachers being inducted to the National Teacher Hall of Fame this year. Lindy Whetzel presents Blissfield Elementary Principal, Michael Valasek, with a plaque commemorating this event.

## Recycling Update

Blissfield Elementary students and staff are making a positive impact on the environment. Each week fifth grade students are responsible for collecting and transporting recycling materials. So far this year, the elementary has collected over 2,100 pounds of paper, cardboard, and other recyclables.



Katie Nine holds the lid while Liam Loar and Mallory Knadler put the collected materials in the recycling bins.

## Mr. Babbitt Honored



Blissfield Community Schools' Athletic Director Steve Babbitt was honored as Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's (MIAAA) Regional Athletic Director of the Year. Mr. Babbitt was among the 14 individuals recognized at a ceremony in Traverse City on March 17. Superintendent Moellenberndt praised Mr. Babbitt saying, "Not

only does Steve demonstrate the breadth of knowledge, loyalty, and experience worthy of this recognition, he also shares a genuine passion for his duties and compassion for those with whom he interacts." Congratulations Mr. Babbitt on being recognized for your many years of great service to the students of Blissfield Community School and on your dedication to helping students make health and physical education a focus in their daily lives!

## Coach Gilbert Named Coach of the Year

Blissfield High School Lady Royals had a season to remember and their leader, Coach Ryan Gilbert, was honored for his role. Coach Gilbert was named Class C co-coach of the year and Lenawee County Coach of the Year. Under Gilbert's leadership the Lady Royals won the Lenawee County Athletic Association championship title and concluded their season with a record of 21-1. The team was ranked number 1 in the state for most of the season. Congratulations to Coach Gilbert and the Lady Royals team on their spectacular season.





## BES Student Wins Anti-Tobacco Poster Contest

The Greater Lenawee Tobacco Reduction Coalition recently sponsored a "Love Your Lungs" poster contest for students in 4th through 8th grades. Blissfield Elementary was honored once again as fifth grader, Paige Abbott was this year's winner. Paige is the daughter of Scott and Stacy Abbott. This makes two years in a row as last year's winner was Lauren Henning. Paige's winning poster will be featured on a billboard in Adrian for one month.



Fifth grader Paige Abbott of Mrs. Reinhardt's class shows off her winning poster. Look for it on a billboard soon.

## Scholar Athletes Honored

Varsity athletes who maintain a minimum 3.5 GPA are recognized as scholar-athletes from the LCAA and our Blissfield Athletic Department. The following winter season athletes were recognized for their academic and athletic prowess during the winter season: Kelsie Abbott, Chris Barrus, Jessica Bausman, Jordan Brenke, Tyler Clark, Emily Cueto, Claire Denecker, Hannah Freeland, Sara Goetz, Marley Griffith, Joshua Hall, Elyse Jones, Charlie Kaster, Nick Keinath, Nikolas Kopka, Madison LaRoy, Brooke Marriott, Dakota Suiter, Connor Vandecaveye, Colleen Willson, and Brianna Yates.

## Sports Physicals for 2014-2015

Hard to believe but it is time to begin preparing for the 2014-15 sports year. Students and parents are reminded that in order for an athletic physical to be valid during the 2014-15 school year, the physical must be completed AFTER April 15th, 2014. If you just received a physical for a spring sport, that physical will expire at the end of the spring sport season.

To save time waiting at the doctor's office, the Blissfield Athletic Department will once again offer sport physicals for the 2014-15 school year. The date for physicals will be Friday, May 2nd at the Middle School. Middle School students will be offered physicals throughout the school day with high school physicals to follow immediately after school. The cost this year is the same as it has been - \$15.

Physical forms will be available to students following Spring Recess.

## Blissfield Band Highlights

The Blissfield Bands have been busy over the past few months. From full ensemble activities to individual achievements, the bands have been a source of pride throughout the long winter months. A few of these highlights are listed below:



District Band and Orchestra Festival—In February, both the BHS Band and BMS 7th and 8th Grade Band performed at festival at Jackson HS. Despite the shortened rehearsal timeframe due to the number of school cancellations, the bands achieved at the highest level, earning unanimous Straight One Ratings. One judge noted regarding the HS Band's performance, "Every band should have been required to attend this performance. Thank you for your gift. You lifted me out of my seat." Congratulations to both bands on your outstanding performances!

Solo and Ensemble—Several high school band students participated in District and State Solo and Ensemble, held in January and March, respectively. Totalling nearly 15 events, our members represented us with pride at both levels. Earning Division Two Ratings at the State Festival were Eric Alexander, Carlee Wanless, Nina Suhk, and Jesse Reaster. Earning Division One Ratings were Winter Miller, Mikayla Carter, Jacob Mason, Ashleigh Gray, and Rebecca Shields. Special recognition goes out to Rebecca Shields, whose remarkable performance landed her a spot in the Michigan Youth Arts Festival Orchestra, a distinguished honor for the state's best musicians.

Honors Bands—Representing the Blissfield Bands in the Western Michigan University All-Star Band in April will be Jacob Mellem and Rebecca Shields. These students were chosen as some of the top musicians from nearly 100 schools that submitted audition recordings. They will work closely with university faculty and cap the day's events with a concert in the beautiful Miller Auditorium. Representing the Bands in the Lenawee County Fine Arts Festival will be Winter Miller, Mikayla Carter, Meagan Elarton, Ashlynn Duncan, Ashleigh Gray, Jacob Mellem, and Haleigh Galnares. These students will work throughout the day with select musicians from the county and with the Director of Bands from Siena Heights University, Mr. Wes King. Finally, eleven BMS 7th and 8th Grade Band members were a part of the Lenawee County Middle School Honors Band in March. Hosted at Clinton HS, comprised of the county's top middle school instrumentalists, and directed by Dr. Marty Marks of Adrian College, this event was a huge success. Participants from Blissfield were: Eryn Layman, Cassie Harris, Nick Milner, Nick Moore, Jacob Paster, Sean Newlin, Jacob Ammerman, Della Krueger, Garrett Waggoner, Matthew MacBeth, and Max Freeland.

## Blissfield Elementary's Wax Museum

After weeks of hard work and preparation, the doors to Blissfield's Tenth Annual Wax Museum opened for two performances. Guests learned from sports legends Babe Didrikson Zaharias, Jackie Robinson, Steve Yzerman, and Bo Schembechler. Also appearing at this year's museum were Princess Grace Kelly, Princess Diana, Queen Elizabeth, and Cleopatra. The inventors of Gatorade, Nike Shoes, and the Kevlar bullet-proof vest were also present. This project has become a highlight of fifth grade for students, and a much anticipated event for the community.



Margie Rickard as Jane Goodall talks about her time living in the wild with chimpanzees.



Keegan Martin as Steve Yzerman tells about his experiences playing hockey for the Detroit Red Wings.

## High School Students Focus on Human Rights



Blissfield High School's Current Events students had a community relation visitor speak to them about Human Rights. Dr. Stephan Sonnenberg, a Clinical Supervising Attorney and Lecturer in Law at Stanford University and formerly of Harvard University, was kind enough to donate his time and expertise to help explain the topic and how our definition of human rights fits into the global view. His presentation provided a fantastic addition to Mr. Phillips' class. Thank you Dr. Sonnenberg.

## Junior Transitional Meetings

Most Juniors begin their transition/exit process at the end of their junior year. Juniors will be able to sign up to meet with Mr. Willson during the spring and can always request a fall/winter meeting by stopping into the CCC and setting up an appointment. Juniors will discuss their graduation status, the college application process, and the pursuit of scholarships and financial aid when they meet with Mr. Willson. Parents, please ask your junior about their transition interview, and as is always the case, please call the CCC if you need more information 486-2148 x203.

## Middle School Intramurals

Once again, Spring Intramurals are underway at the middle school. Students are staying active with a variety of after school recreational games which include two weeks for each floor hockey, basketball, volleyball and/or tennis. There is no cost to the student and all middle school students are eligible to participate (unless they were already part of the school team for a particular sport such as basketball or volleyball).



A.J McClellan, Mitchell Laroy, Sarah Geigler, Serena Butts and Michael Nolan were among the students participating in the floor hockey intramurals at BMS.

Floor hockey intramurals began mid-March and continued through spring break. Basketball meets April 14-16 and April 21-25. Volleyball and tennis will occur from April 28-May 1 and May 5-8. If the weather is too windy or wet for a tennis day, our tennis players may join volleyball that day, or go home.

Some of our participants are staying for all of the activities, while others chose to only attend one or two of the options. Regardless, we've made some new friends, gotten some exercise and had a lot of fun.

This year the program is being run by Mrs. Babbitt and Mr. Hollandsworth. If you have questions, or would like your middle school student to participate in the upcoming segments, please contact Mrs. Babbitt at Blissfield Middle School.

## Tech Center Honorees

On Thursday, March 27, students from Blissfield High School took part in an induction ceremony for the Tech Center National Honor Society. This ceremony was for students who were inducted and/or are current members of NTHS for the 2013-2014 school year. Students wearing purple stoles are continuing members.



Katherine Fowler, Maggie Kasefang, Alyssa Yoder, Josie Witt, and Allison Crowley were this year's members of the NTHS.



## Students and Staff Compete for Charity

The National Honor Society sponsored the Student vs. Staff Volleyball game on Friday, March 28. This was a charity event to raise money and awareness for Hope and Encouragement for Humanity (H.E.H.) a local Blissfield group that provides transportation and storage for disaster relief materials. H.E.H. has helped many people across the country and around the globe get what they need during times of crisis.

Middle School and High School students competed against their teachers in several close matches. Ultimately the students prevailed. Elementary students also got involved in running an obstacle course that included hurdles, scooters, and jump ropes. They raced against Blissfield staff members to see who could finish first.

Throughout the game spectators made bids on items in the silent auction with items donated by area businesses. Thank you to our auction sponsors: Blissfield Coney Island, Joan & Co., Royal Expressions, Angela's Angel's & Antiques, Napa Auto and Truck Parts, Beckey's Kountry Kitchen, Subway, Blissfield Veterinary Service, The Advance, Fricker's, Fiesta Ranchera, Cakes and Shakes, and Ogden Communications, and Lena's. A number of NHS students and families also donated items and baked goods for the event. We appreciate your ongoing support of Blissfield Schools. More than \$1400 was raised in all. Thank you parents, students, and staff for participating and supporting the Blissfield NHS and H.E.H.



Christian Waynick, Claire Denecker, and Sara Goetz look on as Dakota Underwood goes up for the ball. Line judge, Mrs. Taylor is ready to call the point.



Mr. Ricker was one of the teachers to take on the obstacle course challenge against a student.

## Fine Arts Highlights

The Blissfield Community Schools' Department of Fine Arts and Thespian Society presented the BHS spring musical, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* in March. Audiences were entertained by the impressive dance sequences, great vocals, fun story line, amazing sets, and the incredible orchestra. Director, Mrs. Linn, was impressed by her students' ability to rise to the occasion, despite losing nearly three weeks' worth of rehearsals.



Milly, portrayed by Josie Witt, and the ladies of the town sing about a *Wonderful Day*.

Upcoming performances for the Middle and High School Fine Arts students include:

The Blissfield Middle School Fine Arts Festival, to be presented by the Middle School Choir and art students on Thursday, May 1 at 7:00pm on the Middle School Stage,

The Lenawee County Fine Arts Festival, featuring some of the finest student artists, musicians, dancers, and actors from all over Lenawee County, to be presented at 7:00pm on Thursday, May 8 at the Siena Heights University Field House, (admission is \$2.00).

The Blissfield Band Collage Concert, to be presented on Tuesday, May 13 at 7:00pm in the High School Gymnasium, and

The Blissfield High School Fine Arts Festival, to be presented by the Blissfield High School Choirs, Thespian Society and Art Students on Wednesday, May 21 at 7:00pm on the High School stage.

## Winter Sports Wrap Up

The 2013-14 winter sports season had its share of weather related problems regarding the sports schedule but it also brought us many highlights as well. Leading the pack was the varsity girls basketball team, which finished the regular season ranked #1 in the state. The girls finished the season with a 21-1 record, winning the LCAA title along with the MHSAA District and Regional Championships. Coach Ryan Gilbert was named Class C Coach of the Year and senior Claire Denecker was named 1st team all-state. The boys basketball team saw Coach John Vandecaveye earn his 300th career victory and senior Connor Vandecaveye was selected BCAM all-state in class C. The wrestling team joined in the winter highlights by bringing home their own hardware, the MHSAA District Championship. Even with the bad weather, overall it was a very successful sports season.



# Top Ten Students Honored



**Christopher J. Barrus** is the son of Brian and Lisa Barrus. Chris is planning on studying Finance at the University of Toledo where he received several scholarships and awards. His academic distinctions include Honors Chemistry, Algebra II, English 11, and Government Awards. He participated in National Honors Society, Spanish and Physics Clubs, Football, Wrestling, Golf, Link Crew and

Band. His favorite memories of BHS include beating Hudson in football, going to New York with the band, English 11 class, and conversations with Coach Whitmore during Golf.

**Evan Bischoff** is this year's valedictorian. He is the son of Brian and Christine Bischoff. Evan is planning on studying Actuarial Science. He received the AP World History, AP Chemistry, Pre-Calculus and Health and Wellness Awards. Evan was involved with Varsity Soccer and Golf, National Honor Society and the Boy Scouts. His favorite memories while at BHS are playing soccer, being a cabin leader at 5th grade camp, and playing kickball in gym class.



**Claire Denecker** is this year's co-salutatorian. She is the daughter of Maurice and Jean Denecker. Claire plans to attend Grand Valley State University to pursue a career as a Physician's Assistant. Her academic honors include class awards in multiple subjects. She was awarded the Grand Valley Award for Excellence Scholarship. She has numerous athletic honors including 1st Team All League and All



County, Lenawee County Player of the Year and MVP in both Volleyball and Basketball. Claire was also 1st Team All State, Detroit Free Press 1st Team and Toledo Blade Top 25 for Basketball. Claire participated in National Honor Society, Physics and Spanish Clubs, YMCA Storer Camp Counselor, Junior Rotarians, South Riga Go-Getters 4-H Club, Light of Christ Youth Group, and was Class President, and Prom President. Her favorite memories are winning Districts and Regionals and making it to the State Quarterfinals for basketball, Publications Class with Mr. Sullivan, Calculus with Mr. Ricker, bus rides to and from games with the Varsity Girls Basketball team, and going to football games with friends.



**Sara Lynn Goetz** is the daughter of Gary and Laurie Goetz. Sara is planning to attend Michigan State University to study Speech Pathology. Her honors include Scholar Athlete, Academic Excellence, LCAA Student Athlete Excellence, and she won the Spanish 4 Award. Sara was active in National Honor Society, Student Council, Class Council, Junior-Rotarian, Link Crew, Physics and Spanish

Clubs, and was an altar server at Light of Christ Parish. She was active with Volleyball and was captain of the Basketball and Track teams. Sara was MVP of her Track team and holds the school record for Pole Vault. She was All League, All Region, and 1st Team All-County in Track. Her favorite memories are all of her sports seasons, especially senior basketball because of the special team and pair of coaches, and the spirit weeks and fun times with her friends.

**Heidi Elizabeth Sell** is the daughter of Byron and Patricia Sell. She will be attending Florida Southern College with a full tuition scholarship where she plans to major in Biochemistry and then go on to medical school. Her honors include being a Scholar Athlete, English 11 Award, and Health and Wellness Award. Heidi was involved with Marching Band, National Honor Society, Link Crew, International Thespians Society, Drama, Physics and Spanish Clubs and Student Council. Her favorite memories of BHS are travelling to New York and Disney World with the High School Band, homecoming games and dances and playing with fire in AP Chemistry.



**Melissa Snyder** is this year's co-salutatorian. She is the daughter of Thomas and Kelly Snyder. Melissa plans to attend Michigan State University to study Sociology and Psychology. Her awards include Scholar Athlete, Academic Excellence, Rotary Youth Leadership, and 3rd Year Varsity Track. She was involved with Track and Field, Cross Country, Physics and Spanish Clubs, Link Leader and National Honor Society. Melissa's favorite memories include having fun with her team at track and cross country meets and Spirit Week.



# This year, Blissfield High School is honored to present the top ten academic students. Students are listed alphabetically.

**Charles D. Southward** is the son of David and Kyle Southward. He will be studying Audio Production and Technology at Michigan Technological University where he received an academic scholarship. His distinctions include Soccer MVP, 1st Team All League, County and District Scholar Athlete. Charlie was involved with National Honor Society, International Thespian Society, Soccer, Strategic Gaming Club, Junior Rotarian, Community Theater at the Croswell Opera House, The Boy Scouts of America, and Lenawee County Honors Band. His favorite memories are winning Homecoming King, senior year Soccer season, senior musical, and friendships made throughout all of high school.



**Josie Ann Witt** is the daughter of Daniel and Jolene Witt. Josie plans on attending Michigan State University to study nursing with the hope of becoming a nurse practitioner. Her distinctions include Academic Achievement, Work Habits at LISD Tech Center, and 2nd Place at Regional Health Occupational Students of America competition. She has participated in National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, Junior Rotarian, Drama, Spanish and Physics Clubs, Choir, Underground Choir, 4-H, and Red Cross. Her favorite memories include the musicals with all of her thespian family and performing on the BHS stage. Another highlight was Mr. Coscarelli's Anatomy class especially the field trip to the University of Toledo's Gross Anatomy Lab.

**Hannah Williams** is the daughter of Richard and Wendy Williams. Hannah plans to attend Otterbein University to pursue a degree in Sports Management. Her distinctions include Monroe County Education Association Academic All-Star and LISD Debate Top Speaker Award two years running. Hannah participated in Softball, Link Crew and National Honor Society. Her favorite memories are playing softball and going to Debate tournaments.



**Brianna Lindsey Yates** is the daughter of Amy and Melvin Yates. Brianna will be majoring in Nursing at Ohio Northern University where she was awarded the Presidential Scholarship. Her honors include 12 Varsity athlete letters, 4 Band letters, Academic All State, 1st Team All League, Captain Award and MVP for Cross Country and Competitive Cheer, Perfect Attendance, and LCAA Student Athlete

Excellence Award. She participated in National Honor Society, Junior Rotarian, Physics and Spanish Clubs, Link Crew, and the Marching and Concert Bands. Brianna's favorite memories include her cross country and track seasons, especially going to States with her friends and Coach Navarro, dressing funky for Spirit Weeks and fun times at school dances.

## Commencement

High School Graduation will be held on Friday, May 30 at 7:00pm in the High School Gymnasium. All are invited to attend this memorable night as we celebrate the class of 2014.

## Academic Honors Night

The Academic Honors Awards presentation will be held during the evening of May 28th in the High School Gymnasium. At this time, we will recognize the top ten students of the class of 2014 as well as scholarship recipients. The students will also be recognized for outstanding performance in each curricular area. Parents and family members are invited to celebrate these tremendous academic accomplishments.

## Yearbooks

High School students and parents are reminded that the deadline to order 2014 yearbooks is Friday, April 18th. Seniors are reminded to provide Mr. Sullivan a copy of their senior picture or forward a digital senior photo to: [gsullivan@blissfieldschools.us](mailto:gsullivan@blissfieldschools.us). Please list the student's name in the subject line.

Parents wishing to purchase a senior advertisement for their son/daughter are urged to contact Mr. Sullivan using the above email address or by calling 517-486-2148 ext. 1014. Order forms for yearbooks and senior ads will be available during Parent-Teacher Conferences.



## Students Getting a Great Start

The Great Start Readiness Preschool at Blissfield Elementary offers our youngest students the opportunity to learn school routines, interact with their classmates, work with older elementary students as book buddies, and share other special activities together. As the school year turns the corner toward summer break, the preschoolers continue to be busy exploring dinosaurs, insects, plants, and many other math, language, and art concepts. They will take a field trip to the community library to learn about summer offerings there. If you have are interested in more information about the Great Start Program, there will be an open house for interested families on April 25 from 9:00-11:00am and 12:30-2:00pm. Interest forms are available at the Blissfield Elementary Office or visit [www.lenaweegreatstart.org](http://www.lenaweegreatstart.org) to download an Interest Form. Completed forms must be returned to the Great Start office at Porter School, 2946 Sutton Road, Adrian, MI 49221. For questions please email at [info@lenaweegreatstart.org](mailto:info@lenaweegreatstart.org), or call 517-265-1656.



Carson Hoyle takes advantage of our snowy winter to practice water color painting on snow. What an imaginative combination and a great way to liven up the white winter!

## Dual Enrollment

Students who are interested in dual enrolling Fall semester, 2014, should plan to attend a meeting on May 6 during VIP in the CCC. The application process must be completed before the end of this school year, as the college courses begin before BHS courses. Please stop in the CCC to sign up for the meeting ahead of time, as space is limited.

## ACT/SAT

Registration packets are available for the ACT and SAT tests. Students who were juniors in the State of Michigan in Spring, 2014 should already have taken the ACT. Students may obtain forms for retaking the test in the CCC. Remember, due to a change in State of Michigan legislation, students are allowed only one free ACT test at Blissfield High School.

## Virtual Classes

Students who are interested in taking a virtual class during Fall semester, 2014 should plan to attend a meeting on May 7 during VIP in the CCC. All students who plan on taking a virtual class during first semester of the 2014-15 school year need to attend so that the virtual budget can be built and the classes can be reserved.

## The Scholastic Book Fair is Coming to the Middle School

Blissfield Middle School is excited about our upcoming Book Fair. The fair will run Monday, April 21 through Friday, April 25. The hours are 7:30am to 3:00pm daily with extended hours until 4:00pm on Tuesday and Thursday.

An amazing selection of books is headed our way! The book fair, which will be located in the Middle School Media center, will include the latest and finest titles for students, as well as books of interest to parents.

Everyone is welcome to stop in and shop at the school. Can't make it to the fair? Online shopping is available between April 16 and May 6 by visiting our book fair website at <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/blissfieldms>.

100% of the profits from the Book Fair are used in the Middle School Media Center. Thank you for all of your support!

## Reading Fiesta

Students from Mrs. Bretnier's Spanish 3 and 4 classes wrote original children's books based on a popular Spanish refrán, a saying or proverb that teaches a lesson. They then shared their stories written in Spanish at the Elementary school with Miss. Shearer and Mrs. Porter's class. This fit in nicely with the Elementary School's March is Reading Month's Fiesta theme. ¡Olé!



Elli Betz and Emma Essen look on as Andrew Billington takes his turn reading to Dalton Knadler and Johnny Gano.

## Smarter Balanced Assessment Pilot Program

Blissfield Middle School 6th and 7th grade students will participate in a pilot test of the Smarter Balanced Assessment. This assessment is anticipated to replace the MEAP test in the areas of Reading and Mathematics for the spring 2015. Students will complete the pilot test during the week of April 28 - May 2. The new assessment program will incorporate technology for selected response items, constructed response items (questions that prompt students to produce a text or numerical response to collect evidence about their knowledge or understanding of the given target), and performance tasks (items that measure a student's ability to integrate knowledge and skills across multiple standards-a key component of college and career readiness).



## Michigan Merit Exam (MME) & PLAN Test Results

Results of the MME (including ACT) will be mailed to the students' home by the end of April. Students who took the PLAN test can also expect to get their results from the CCC by the end of April.

### PSAT

PSAT (pre-SAT and National Merit Scholar Qualifying Test) will be given to eleventh grade students in the fall of 2014. This is not a mandatory test, but 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 early May. Test materials must be ordered prior to the close of the 2013-2014 school year, so we must have sign up before dismissal for summer break. If parents have any questions or concerns, or would like to sign their students up now, you may call the counseling office at 486-2148 x 203.

### Advanced Placement Testing

Blissfield High School's AP (Advanced Placement) Classes: (AP English, AP Physics, AP World History, and AP Chemistry) will be giving their students the AP test during the first two weeks of May. AP courses can help students acquire the skills and habits necessary to be successful in college. Students have the opportunity to improve writing skills, sharpen problem solving abilities, and manage their time. Best of all students have the opportunity to earn college credit, for their AP subject, if they score high enough on that particular AP exam.

### Scheduling

BHS student requests have been completed for next year. We will be using the electronic scheduler to assign class periods to student requests as the Master Schedule is built. Schedules will be adjusted for the Tech Center, Dual Enrollment, and other unique circumstances only. Thank you to students, parents, staff and administration for all of the hard working and planning that went into the scheduling process. Schedules will be available to students at the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year.

### 8th Grade Camp



Blissfield Middle School 8th grade students will head to Pioneer Scout Reservation May 21-23. 8th Grade Camp is a long-standing tradition that allows students to conclude their middle school years with an outdoor education experience. Students cook their own meals, sleep in two-person canvas tents and experience team building activities including canoeing, archery, rock climbing, mountain biking and various team games. This experience is always a highlight of the year. Students bond together and learn to work in teams while overcoming challenges.

## After School Program

During the month of March sixty-one Blissfield Elementary students participated in session two of the Royals After School Program (RASP). Throughout the second session 2 students participated in the following classes (clubs): We Are Not Bored Board Games, ScootPad and iPad Fun, Let's Learn Spanish, and Artistic Creations. A special Thank You goes out to Mrs. L. Mueller, Mrs. Veld, Mrs. Walter, Mrs. Ramirez, and Mrs. J. Gorski for taking the time out of their busy schedules to offer these fun and exciting opportunities for the students. RASP is an after school activities program that runs from 3:00-5:00pm two days per week, for four weeks. Students spend the first half-hour of each class session working on homework and getting help, while eating a small after school snack. The cost to participate in each class begins at \$30 and may increase if there are extra materials necessary to participate in the class. We look forward to continuing to grow this program in the future. Please keep an eye out for RASP registration forms coming home in the fall of the 2014-15 school year.



Faith Yoder and Reanne Smith take time out to play Aggravation in their board game session of RASP.

## Blissfield Accelerated Readers

Blissfield Elementary students participated in a special Accelerated Reader activity on February 28th called Read the Most, Coast to Coast. All across the United States students were encouraged to take as many AR tests as they could on this day. The goal was to take five million AR tests. This helped classrooms that participated kick off March Is Reading Month. Classrooms could log on to the website and watch the number



of tests grow throughout the day. What a great way to help students get excited about reading. The goal of five million was not reached, but 4.6 million is still a lot of AR tests to be taken in one day!

Kaydence Vonetten and Dalton Knadler were just 2 of the many Blissfield Elementary students who took AR tests on February 28th.



## Science Fair

The 8th grade team just completed their 1st Annual Science Fair. This was an interdisciplinary unit that began in January and culminated with the Science Fair held on Wednesday, April 2 at the Middle School.

Mr. Geha worked with the 8th graders on developing a testable question, and hypothesis which they tested with an experiment done at home. Mrs. Gray helped the students with their background research and Mrs. Atkinson taught the students how to use Excel to interpret and show their results.

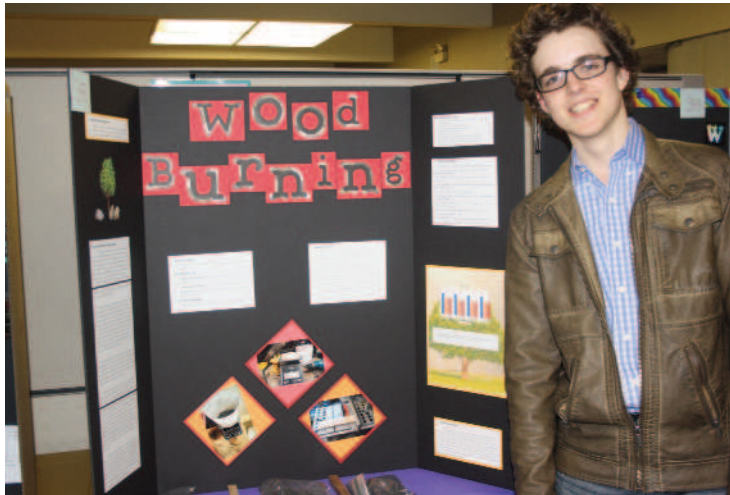
On Wednesday, seven judges from various professions analyzed the projects and scored them based on the scientific data presented. A huge thanks to the following judges for taking time out of their busy schedules to participate; Pam Bunch (Hillsdale Lenewee and Monroe County Math and Science Center), Bryan Domschot (TEC-Option), Tina Zimmerman (BMS science teacher), Kevon Binder (Dr. Flu - Toledo), Kelly Cichy (LISD), Gary Koppelman (5th grade teacher Blissfield Elementary School), and Dr. William Gray (Promedica Physicians).

And the winners are...

1st Place	Cade Prime
2nd Place	Mary Kate Bossard
3rd Place	Jacob Spano
4th Place	Rachel Lycans
5th Place	Hallie Frye
6th Place	Cassandra Harris

In addition, there were 15 Honorable Mention Ribbons awarded. The top three received gift cards to Barnes and Noble and 4th - 6th place received water bottles. Thanks to Norris Klump Farms, LLC, and Bailey Family Chiropractic for your generous donations. In addition, Blissfield Manufacturing donated pens and folders for the judges to use.

As the saying goes, "it takes a community to raise a child," and we are very fortunate to have the community and parent support in place to be able to accomplish a project of this size.



Cade Prime proudly displays his winning project on Wood Burning. Congratulations Cade on a job well done.

## Kindergarten Registration

Blissfield Elementary School's annual kindergarten registration was held on Tuesday, March 18, with fifty-three students being enrolled in the "class of 2027." It is not too late to register for next year's kindergarten. Parents/legal guardians may come to the elementary school office Monday-Friday from 7:15am-3:15pm to complete all the necessary registration paperwork. Children are eligible to attend kindergarten if they are five years old by October 1, 2014. When coming to the school office to complete registration, parents must bring with them the child's official birth certificate, proof of residency (can't be a driver's license), and all immunization records. Another state requirement for beginning kindergarten is successful completion of a vision and hearing screening. Representatives from the Lenawee County Health Department will be available at the elementary school on the morning of August 19 and appointments can be made at the time of registration. If this is not a convenient time, appointments can be made at the Lenawee County Health Department for screening prior to August 19. For parents interested in enrolling their children in kindergarten through the School of Choice Program, application can be made at the time of registration. We encourage all parents who have not registered their children for next year's kindergarten program to do so as soon as possible so plans can be made for staffing, purchasing of teaching materials, etc.



Austyn Myles and Charlie Paulson of Mrs. Seidl's class proudly display their work. They worked together to build the alphabet train, a favorite large work in the kindergarten classes.



## Elementary Music Programs

BES first and fourth grade classes welcomed the spring season and celebrated Music In Our Schools Month with programs on March 25. First graders presented a peek into the music classroom with pieces such as "We're Making Music In Our School," "Play Me a Cowbell," and "Music Makes Me Sing." Student narrators provided the background for each selection, and vocal and instrumental soloists demonstrated the musical growth of the first grade class.



Fourth grade students invited the audience to join them on a "March Across America: United We Sing," exploring styles of music from many areas of the USA. "Jamestown," "Shake Them 'Simmons Down," and the recorder duet "Poor Wayfaring Stranger" were just a few of the wonderful selections presented by the fourth graders. Program highlights included student narration, instrumental and vocal features, and student-created props and artwork. Congratulations to all first and fourth grade students on their hard work and memorable performances!

Upcoming elementary program dates include May 15, Kindergarten and 5th grade programs, including the 5th grade band and May 23, 3rd grade Grandparents' Day.

## 8th Graders in Essay Contest

Congratulations to the 8th graders whose essays were submitted to State Farm Insurance for the "Michigan Hero" essay contest.

Mrs. Gray's students wrote the essay as a portion of their grade for Language Arts. Of the 102 essays that were written, ten were sent to State Farm for the contest.

State Farm awarded certificates to the top three which were: Kayla Waynick, Nick Moore and Karter Zimmerman. In addition, Karter's essay advances to the state level competition. Her essay is up against about 450 essays written by other Michigan 8th graders. The Top 10 essays for the State of Michigan will be released sometime this month. Good Luck Karter!



The top ten student essays belonged to Jacob Ammerman, Jenna Andrix, Kelsey Noel, Kayla Waynick, Karter Zimmerman, Nick Moore, Mary Kate Bossard, Mitchell Laroy, and Nick Milner (not pictured: Alaina Crowley).

## Hoops for Heart Tenth Anniversary

Blissfield Middle School students will be participating in the school's 10th annual "HOOPS FOR HEART" activity. The event is organized by the health and physical education department in an effort to increase awareness of the importance of a healthy heart and lifestyle and to raise funds for the American Heart Association (AHA).

Students who participate in the event will be accepting contributions from May 16th through May 30th, 2014.



Parents and friends may donate to this cause with cash or online donations and/or you may get a "Get Fired Up" red T-shirt for a \$15 donation during the week of May 27th wishing to help with this upcoming event should contact Lisa Babbitt at Blissfield Middle School.

Following our fundraising efforts, all middle school students and teachers will participate in "HOOPS" and other healthy heart activities on June 6th (weather permitting) to celebrate their own health and the success of this important community service activity. There will be an afternoon of fun and games which the staff and students always look forward to.

If you are wondering how your donations are used, the AHA uses the tax deductible contributions to help fight heart disease and stroke – our nation's number one and four killers (Stroke recently moved back from the 3rd prevention and recognition education helps). For more information, you may go to [www.americanheartassociation.org](http://www.americanheartassociation.org). The Heart Association uses the profit to improve emergency response and treatment of heart attack, cardiac arrest, and stroke. It also supports heart and stroke research programs which ultimately lead to better diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of cardiovascular diseases.

If your heart speaks to you on this issue, you know anyone who lives with a heart disease, and/or you have lost the life of a loved one to any heart disease, please consider supporting our youth in their effort to support the American Heart Association. Every dollar counts. Just think, if every student could raise just \$10, we would raise almost \$3000. We would love to raise at least \$3,115. That goal would bring our 10 year total to \$20,000.

## Fifth Grade Camp

Wow, what a fantastic time the 5th grade students had at YMCA Storer Camps near Napoleon, Michigan for their Outdoor Education Experience! 108 students and 20 high school cabin leaders along with all four of the 5th grade teachers attended March 17 – March 19! The cold weather did not deter anyone from enjoying the hands on-minds on science at its best. The high school junior and senior cabin leaders did a fantastic job working with the elementary students in the various classes. The Outdoor Education is an extension of the 5th grade classroom curriculum and provides a wonderful way for students to experience science and social studies activities first hand. The three day event is filled with exploration of team building and survival skills, pioneer living, Underground Railroad, along with meeting unique characters at meal times. This is some students first experience being away from home. While many are anxious as they board the buses, they are often the first to ask if they can remain for the entire week! This is Blissfield's 38th year of experiencing 5th Grade Camp!



Students from Mr. Koppelman's class braved the elements to show off their survival skills learned at 5th Grade Camp.

## March is Reading Month

On March 7 Blissfield Elementary hosted visiting author Joe Kelley as part of their March is Reading Month celebration. Mr. Kelley is the co-author of several children's books including Pete the Popcorn and Pete the Popcorn 2: Popcorns Practicing Principles. The message shared through Pete is Pursuing Excellence Through Encouragement. During the assembly the author showcased his children's book titled Crusty Cupcakes Happy Birthday! The important message shared with Blissfield Elementary students from this book is about the gift of friendship. The cupcakes help send the



Kindergarteners Joseph Wilkowski and Leigh Wyman joined in the fun singing with Mr. Kelley.

message that it is what is on the inside of a person that matters the most. Students K-5 enjoyed the presentation and were given the opportunity to order personalized and signed copies of the authors' work. Mr. Kelley also talked to students about the process of writing and illustrating books. This native of Michigan shared the many wonderful places around the world his passion has taken him.

## Blissfield Community Schools District Calendar of Upcoming Events

Apr 17	Parent-Teacher Conferences 1/2 Day for Students
Apr 18	No School for Students/Staff
Apr 21	Board of Education Meeting
Apr 21-25	MS Book Fair
Apr 26	High School Prom
May 1	MS Fine Arts Night
May 2	Athletic Physicals at BMS
May 5	AP Testing Begins
May 6	Board Meeting of the Whole
May 7	MS Payback for Education
May 8	County Fine Arts Festival
May 9	Progress Reports Distributed MS Hoops for Heart Top 20 Luncheon
May 13	Collage Concert
May 15	Kindergarten and 5th Grade Music Programs
May 19-22	ES Victorsville Week
May 19	Board of Education Meeting
May 21	HS Fine Arts Festival
May 21-22	8th Grade Camp
May 23	3rd Grade Grandparent's Day Seniors Last Day
May 26	No School - Memorial Day
May 28	Academic Awards Night
May 29	Baccalaureate Senior Breakfast 8th Grade Civil War Camp
May 30	8th Grade Celebration High School Graduation
June 2	Spring Sports Awards
June 3	Board Meeting of the Whole
June 13	Purple and Gold Day/Elementary School Picnic
June 16	Board of Education Meeting
June 17	Half Day Student Exams
June 18	Half Day Student Exams/Last Day
June 27	Report Cards Distributed
July 21	Board of Education Meeting
Aug 18	Board of Education Meeting

## High School Prom

"Mardi Gras" will be the theme for prom 2014. This magical event will take place at LaRoy's Hall in LaSalle, Michigan, Saturday, April 26th, from 8:00-11:00 pm. The cost for prom tickets will be \$50 per couple and \$25 per single ticket. If you have any questions you may contact Miss Walkowe at (517) 486-2148.

THE BLISSFIELD

# COMMUNICATOR