



Commitment to
Excellence

THE COMMUNICATOR

A Quarterly Publication of Blissfield Community Schools



Commitment to
Excellence

From the Superintendent



Although students have many weeks of instruction remaining during the 2011-12 school year, preparations have already begun for their return next fall. Proposed revisions to the K-12 English and Language Arts curriculum were recently presented to the District Professional Council and adopted by our Blissfield Board of Education for implementation through 2020. These curricular revisions include over \$100,000 being allocated for the purchase of new textbooks, novels, workbooks, instructional materials, classroom technology, and digital books for students opting to read electronically. Similar curricular modifications have occurred in Mathematics, Social Studies, Health, World Languages and Science since 2008.

The first of two scheduled Kindergarten Roundup opportunities was held on March 13th. A second registration session and informational meeting for all incoming Kindergarten parents is slated for 6:00pm on Monday, April 23rd at Blissfield Elementary School.

Beginning with the graduating class of 2016 (this year's eighth graders) the State Board of Education expects all students to complete two high school credits of a World Language other than English prior to graduation. *Students must complete two years of the same World Language* in order to do so. Eighth grade students who elected to enroll in Spanish I are eligible to complete their first credit of study while at Blissfield Middle School. They must then complete a second credit in Spanish during their four years at Blissfield High School. Students who did not elect a World Language during their eighth grade year will need to complete two credits while in high school. Along with traditional classroom instruction in Spanish I, II, III, and IV, Blissfield schools will expand on-line learning opportunities in French, German, Japanese, Latin, and Mandarin Chinese through Michigan Virtual School to allow students in grades 8-12 additional World Language options in fulfilling this requirement. Other alternatives may include formal study abroad, college coursework, home or heritage languages, or other on-line courses. Regardless of the program model or mode of instruction selected, students must demonstrate proficiency in their chosen language before graduation.

Parents are encouraged to attend Parent-Teacher Conferences on Thursday, April 19th. Conference sessions will be held district-wide from 8:00-11:00am, 12:30-3:30pm, and 5:00-8:00pm. There will be no school for students on Thursday, April 19th and Friday, April 20th, 2012.

School board elections previously held each May will now occur in November of even numbered years, due to recent legislation requiring consolidated state elections. Furthermore,

four year elected terms have been extended up to 18 months to allow for bi-annual elections with newly elected members serving six year terms. Current board seats will continue through December 31st of the year listed below:

2012	2014	2016
JoDee Friess	Scott Abbott	Bob Beckey
Brian McEwan	Noel Eisenmann	David Brewer
	Vicki Lombard	

On behalf of our students, staff and administration, thank you for your continued support of Blissfield Community Schools.

Sincerely,

Scott D. Moellenberndt

Blissfield Community Schools District Calendar of Upcoming Events

Apr 2-6	No School for Students Spring Recess
Apr 10	5th Grade Outdoor Band Concert
Apr 16	Board of Education Meeting
Apr 19	No School for Students Parent-Teacher Conferences
Apr 20	No School for Students
Apr 23	Kindergarten Parent Information Session
Apr 27	Royal Walk
Apr 28	High School Prom
May 4	Progress Reports Distributed Athletic Physicals at BMS
May 7	Kdg & 1st Grade Music Program
May 8	3rd & 4th Grade Music Program
May 9	MS Payback for Education
May 10	MS Solar Cookout 5th Grade Fine Arts Night Lenawee Fine Arts Festival
May 11	MS Hoops for Heart
May 14-18	ES Victorsville Week
May 16	6-12 Grade Band Collage
May 17	Choir and Recorder Concert
May 18	3rd Grade Grandparent's Day
May 18-19	Middle School Musical
May 21	Board of Education Meeting
May 22	HS Fine Arts Festival
May 23-25	8th Grade Camp
May 25	Purple and Gold Day/Elementary School Picnic
May 28	No School - Memorial Day
May 29	MS Fine Arts Night
May 30	Academic Awards Night
May 31	Baccalaureate Senior Breakfast
June 1	8th Grade Celebration High School Graduation
June 6	Half Day Student Exams
June 7	Half Day Student Exams/Last Day
June 15	Report Cards Distributed

Beauty and the Beast

The students of the Blissfield High School Drama Club and Thespian Society, Troupe 6353, presented four performances of the classic Disney Musical, "Beauty and the Beast," March 24th, 25th, and 26th to high acclaim. Director, Wanice Linn, said that much of the credit goes to the amazing parent and community volunteers who gave of their time and talents to make the intricate sets shine. Linn also noted that the choreography by Brandi Archer "truly made the show sparkle." Over eighty students from all three buildings participated in the show, in the cast, crew and Musical Theatre Class. "This was a really fun show, and we hope our audiences enjoyed attending as much as we enjoyed performing for them," said Linn.



The townspeople celebrate their hero, Gaston during a performance of Beauty and the Beast.

2011 Blissfield Community Schools MEAP Results

The 2011 MEAP scores have been released for the State of Michigan with Blissfield's third through ninth grade students demonstrating very solid performances in comparison to both county and state achievement levels. In mathematics Blissfield exceeded the county average for proficiency in five out of the six grade levels, and four out of the six grade levels when compared to the state average. The third and the eighth grade results were both top in the county. In reading Blissfield exceeded both the county and state averages in four out of the six grade levels, finishing first in the county in grades three and four. Blissfield also exceeded the county and state averages in science, finishing first in the county in both fifth and eighth grade. Writing scores also exceeded the county and state averages at the fourth and seventh grade levels, and boasted the top score in the county in the fourth grade. Finally, Blissfield also exceeded the county and state averages for proficiency in fifth grade social studies. Overall, Blissfield students improved or remained the same in 15 of the 18 areas tested and finished first in Lenawee County 7 out of 18 areas! Congratulations, to our students and staff members on for their outstanding performance!

Dual Enrollment

Students who are interested in dual enrollment during the Fall semester, 2012, should plan to attend a meeting on May 7th, 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 into the CCC to sign up for the meeting ahead of time, as space will be limited.

Wild Animals at Elementary

To enhance their study of vertebrates, animals with backbones, third grade students were paid a visit by Mr. Paul MacCormack, the "Animal Man", along with several of his animals. After explaining the adaptations of these animals to enable them to live within their different biomes and habitats, Mr. MacCormack allowed each student to observe, touch, and enjoy a close-up view of nearly every animal. A few of the most thrilling included Woody, the Tree Frog; Smokey, the Cockatiel; Franklin, the Spur Thigh tortoise; Mr. and Mrs. Monty, the Ball Pythons; and Noah, the Boa Constrictor. Most students reveled to hold or touch these tame critters!



Mr. MacCormack holds a string with Woody showing off his sticky tree frog feet as students look on in wonder.

Voices for Change

On March 16th, Blissfield Middle School, Voices for Change sponsored a K-12 Pajama Day. Students and staff could wear pajamas to school for the day if they donated either \$1 or two non-perishable food items. All proceeds will go towards hosting an event called, "Making a Difference, One Item at a Time," which will be held on Saturday, April 28th from 10:00am - 12:00pm in the First United Methodist Church parking lot. Free clothing, food items, toys, books, furniture, and personal hygiene items will be available to the community. Please come to support our students and "Help us help each other!" If you have questions or wish to donate to Voices for Change, please contact Ms. Maria Crane at Blissfield Middle School.



Pictured from left to right: Logan Crane, Madison Griffith, Nick Keinath, Ms. Maria Crane (advisor), LeeAnn Seidl, Sydney Papenhagen, Sierra Denniss, Marley Griffith, Emily Chappuies, Callie Keller, Kirkland Bates, Elizabeth Lycans, and Brady Griffith.

Technology Director Honored

District Technology Director, Matthew Cook was honored as the MACUL (Michigan Association of Computer Users in Learning) Outstanding Technology Coordinator of the Year. The award was presented at MACUL's annual conference in Grand Rapids on March 9th. Superintendent Scott Moellenberndt and representatives of Blissfield's teaching staff attended the conference and were on hand for the award presentation. Mr. Cook was nominated by the administration of Blissfield Community Schools whose application says, "As a direct result of his hands-on leadership style, Matthew Cook has helped transform every aspect of our school district through his role as District Technology Director. Matthew's knowledge, hard work, and ability to garner the services of nationally known instructors and speakers have helped move our utilization of district technology to the next level." Elementary Principal Dee Crane goes on to say, "We don't know what we would do without him and certainly hope we never have to find out!"



MACUL President Mike Oswalt presents Blissfield Technology Director Matthew Cook with his award at the annual conference.

Challenge for Charity

The Blissfield Physics Club, in conjunction with the National Honor Society, hosted a student vs staff basketball game on Saturday, March 10th to raise money to help sponsor a Challenge Day workshop. Twelve teachers took part in the event versus 30 plus students. A silent raffle was held with donations from businesses and individuals from the Blissfield area.



Nick Kopka, Laura Goetz, Steven Mattek, Jordan Willson, and Jake Kopka are getting ready for the game.

Band Highlights

On Friday, March 16th, the Blissfield Middle School Seventh and Eighth Grade Band and Blissfield High School Symphonic Band participated in the MSBOA District Band and Orchestra Festival at Adrian High School. This is an annual adjudicated event for school ensembles statewide. The Blissfield Bands enjoyed much success again this year, capturing all Division I ratings, the highest classification possible. This qualifies both bands for state competition at the end of April, and continues a tradition of performance excellence.

On Saturday, February 4th, several BHS Band students performed at District Solo and Ensemble, hosted in Tecumseh. These musicians represented our school well, performing a wide variety of selections at a very high level. Earning a Division Two, or good rating for their performances were; Mikayla Carter, Winter Miller, and Meghan Newlin. Earning a Division One, or excellent rating, and qualifying for State Festival were Olivia Miller, Diane Dickerson, Heidi Sell, Zoe Jones, Kennadi Auth, Caroline Binns, Rebecca Shields, Andrew Renwand, Matthew Brown, Jacob Mellem, Kyle Sell, and Charlie Southward. Congratulations to all and good luck at State!



Several Blissfield Middle School seventh and eighth grade band students have been selected to be a part of the Lenawee County Band Director's Association Middle School Honors Band. This all day event on March 29th at the Tecumseh Civic Auditorium, will feature some of the county's finest young musicians. Representing Blissfield will be Carlee Wanless, Margaret Clark, Jenna Palmer, Erin Southward, Amaya Bailey, Eric Alexander, Lucas Rogers, Jacob Mason, Ashleigh Gray, Daysia Spiegel, Rachel Nowicki, and Nathaniel Milner.

On May 16th, the Blissfield bands, grades 6-12, will present their Fourth Annual Spring Collage Concert. The performance begins at 7:00pm in the HS Gymnasium. The collage format is a unique way to present a large amount and variety of music in a relatively short period of time. Musical selections are intended to transition seamlessly from one to another, in effect creating a "sonic" collage. In addition to the music, other audio-visual effects and some special surprises should help to create a very entertaining presentation! Come out and support your bands in the last concert of the year.

High School Prom



An "Evening in Paris" will be the theme for prom 2012. This magical event will take place at "M" On the River in Toledo, Saturday, April 28th, from 8:00 pm-11:00 pm. The cost for prom tickets will be \$40 per couple and \$20 per single ticket. If you have any questions you may contact Miss Walkowe at (517) 486-2148.

Blissfield Elementary's Wax Museum

History came to life as fifth graders read biographies, wrote speeches, and rehearsed their roles as they prepared to portray famous people throughout history. Blissfield Elementary was transformed into a time machine to transport you to different periods in history. Sports legends including Lou Gehrig and Babe Ruth or Presidents Washington, Lincoln, and Kennedy were present. Students learned how Milton Hershey, John Deere, and Elvis became household names.



Among the wax museum displays was Krista Stutzman's, as Annie Oakley.

Elementary Students Perform Surgery

During their study of contractions, Mrs. Graf's second grade students performed surgery. Thanks to Drs. Mallow and Weeden providing surgical gloves and masks, the students dressed as doctors and assisted one another in surgically cutting out unneeded letters and gluing words back together, placing band-aids where apostrophes belonged. The students had a lot of fun performing this lesson and were very excited to take their surgery gear home. Some students even took home patients to do extra surgery at home!



Max McEwan and Annabelle Smith carefully operate on their contractions.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences for all K-12 students will be held on Thursday, April 19th. As a result, there will be no school for students that day. Conferences will occur in all three buildings from 8:00-11:00 am, 12:30-3:30 pm, and 5:00-8:00 pm. Conferences for students in grades K-4 have been scheduled in fifteen minute appointment slots, and those appointment times have been sent home. Conferences for students in grades 5-12 are open-forum conferences, first come-first served. This allows parents to speak with all the teachers who work with their children. There will also be no school for both students and staff members on Friday, April 20th.

A Battle for a Cause

Blissfield Middle School's Student Council participated in Penny Wars this February. This was an opportunity for students to raise money for families in need throughout the Blissfield area. Just under \$600 was raised. The rules for the penny war are every penny collected is considered a positive point, while all other money values are a negative point. Students donated pennies to their own VIP and other money to opposing VIPs. The winners were sixth grade - Mr. Novak's VIP, seventh grade - Mrs. Babbitt's VIP, and eighth grade - Mrs. Broderick's VIP. This event was very successful, and the winners get to participate in a dodge ball game versus the teachers on March 30th.



Kayla Nodine from Mr. Novak's VIP class counts up the change collected by the sixth grade winners.

Sports Physicals for 2012-2013

Hard to believe but it is time to begin preparing for the 2012-13 sports year. Students and parents are reminded that in order for an athletic physical to be valid during the 2012-13 school year, the physical must be completed AFTER April 15th, 2012. 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 2012-13 school year. The date for physicals will be Friday May 4th. 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.

How to Buy the Car of Your Dreams

Thanks to Blissfield State Bank and Iott Insurance for lending their experienced employees for the afternoon on March 6th. The students were able to ask questions about insurance and how borrowing money from the bank costs money. Students in Mrs. Atkinson's math classes completed a unit that helped students learn all about buying a car. They learned how to use Microsoft Excel to calculate the simple interest as well as their monthly car payments. Microsoft Excel was also used to create pie charts that showed students projected life expenses and transportation costs. Students used Career Cruising to find an occupation that fit their interests and would support their lifestyles. Thank you again to Marty Nine and Jim Fredenberg for taking the time to help inform the students on this important information.



Jim Fredenberg and Marty Nine shared their insights on financing with Mrs. Atkinson's math students.



Elisha Thompsen shows off the Range Rover she hopes to own one day.

Coming Home Celebration

The theme selected by the Student Council for this year's Coming Home festivities on February 3rd was "Dr. Seuss." The Senior class selected "Horton Hears A Who," Juniors chose "The Cat In The Hat," Sophomores "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish," and Freshman decided on "Oh, the Places You'll Go." This weeklong event included PJ Day on Monday. Tuesday was Western Day followed by Wacky Wednesday. Thursday was Dr. Seuss Day and Friday was of course Royal Day. The court this year consisted of prospective queens Shaunna Isakson, Allison Papenhagen, Niccy Jahlas, and Angela Baker. King candidates were Alex Seidl, Christian Davis, Patrick Bumbalough and Stevie Vancil. Along with Coming Home, Student Council also sponsored a food drive. Seniors won the food drive, and also the entire week. The annual pep assembly consisted of King candidates singing pop songs, while the Queen candidates tried to guess the song. Iron man volleyball was finally won by the Senior class, after three years of close calls. Freshmen won the float building competition. That evening, the Varsity Boys' basketball team were victorious over Erie Mason. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped with this exciting week!



Olivia Miller, Jon Becker, Holly Meszaros, Bryce DeGregorio, Emily Butts, Madison Tracy, Alyssa Hartke, and Brooke VanPelt show off their spirit on Dr. Seuss Day.

Sweet Sounds of Music

The students of Blissfield Middle School will create a world of pure imagination this spring, as they produce Willy Wonka, Junior. Roald Dahl's timeless story of the world famous Candy Man and his quest to find an heir comes to life in this stage adaptation of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, which features the songs from the classic family film, Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. The memorable score features "The Candy Man", "Pure Imagination," "Oompa Loompa" and "I Want It Now" and aspects of both films based on Roald Dahl's story are included in this imaginative stage adaptation.



Willy Wonka, Junior Show Times:

Friday, May 18th at 7:00pm

Saturday, May 19th at 3:00pm and 7:00pm

Admission: Adults: \$6, Students and Senior Citizens: \$5, Children five and under: \$4

Saturday Matinee Tickets (3:00pm show) are \$2 off!

Bullying Interventions

On Monday, February 20th, teachers and administrators at Blissfield Community Schools learned skills to prevent and address student bullying. Guest presenter Marcia McEvoy spoke about helping Blissfield kids to get along.



Teachers Mark Hollandsworth, Brian Barrus, Brian Sills, Dan Jaszczak and Craig Emery assist guest speaker Marcia McEvoy with one of her many hands on examples.

Spring Intramurals at BMS

Spring Intramurals are underway at the middle school for grades 6-8. Students are staying active with a variety of after school recreational games. These include two weeks each for floor hockey, basketball, volleyball and/or tennis. The after school programs run for six weeks, Monday through Thursday from 3:00 – 4:15pm. All middle school students are eligible and there is no cost to participate, except those that were members of the school basketball and/or volleyball teams.

Top Ten Students Honored



Tyler Babbitt is this year's valedictorian. He is the son of Steve and Lisa Babbitt. He is planning on studying Communications at either The University of Michigan or The Ohio State University. He received the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award, as well as numerous student of the year awards in various subjects. Tyler was involved with the International Thespian Society, Soccer Team, National Honor Society, Link Crew, Student Government, Forensics and Debate. His favorite memories while at BHS are winning Soccer Districts this season, performing in the musical "Grease," and Forensics competitions.



RaeLynne MacBeth is co-salutatorian. She is the daughter of Danny and Tanya MacBeth. She is planning on attending the University of Toledo in order to study Pre-Med. She was the student of the year in numerous subjects and was on the high honors list. After school she was active in soccer, National Honor Society, volleyball, musicals, Thespian Society, and Drama Club. Her favorite memories are AP Chemistry class, float building, football games, musical performances, and hanging with friends.

Angela Baker is the daughter of Daniel and Sarah Baker. She is planning on attending Michigan State University to study Chemistry and Sociology in order to pursue a career in forensic science. Her academic distinctions include honor roll all four years, Academic Excellence Award, third place in Business Professionals of America Regionals, and eighth place in state competition for computer security. She participated in National Honor Society, Business Professionals of America, and was Assistant Catechist at Light of Christ Parish Blissfield Site. Her favorite memories of BHS include making ice cream in Chemistry class, attending school plays, homecoming and Prom, and being a member of homecoming court.



Devin Lee Moore is the son of Kurt and Kellie Loar. He will be attending Central Michigan University with a focus on the medical field. His honors include being a Scholar Athlete in baseball, basketball, and football, Principal's List/Honors all eight semesters, and an LCAA senior scholar athlete. Devin was involved with baseball, basketball, football, Physics Club and National Honor Society. His favorite memories of BHS are the time spent with friends playing sports and hanging out.

Laura Goetz is the daughter of Gary and Laurie Goetz. She plans to attend Michigan State University to study nursing or special education. Her honors include Academic Athlete, All State Scholar Athlete, Academic Excellence, Leadership Award, All League in track and volleyball and Basketball. Basketball MVP, and Health Occupations of America first place regionals. She participated in basketball, volleyball, track, National Honor Society, and Link Crew. She was Student Council President, an altar server at her church and was a Junior Rotarian. Her favorite memories are sporting events, Link Crew, and building relationships with friends and staff.



Anthony Renwand is the son of William and Amy Renwand. He will be attending The University of Michigan where he will major in Biology with a focus on Pre-Med. He was the MVP of the soccer team, student of the year for government, an eagle scout and a scholar athlete. His distinctions at Blissfield High School are captain of the varsity soccer team, Treasurer for National Honor Society, Treasurer of Drama Club, wrestling, golf, member of International Thespian Society, Assistant Scout Master of his local Boy Scout Troop. His favorite memories are AP Chemistry class and musicals.



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

Stephanie Salters is the daughter of Kevin and Kathleen Salters. She plans on attending Central Michigan University to pursue becoming a physical therapist. Her distinctions include Board of Trustees and Award of Excellence from Central Michigan University, LCAA Scholar Athlete, LCAA first team in track, All State Academics in volleyball, as well as being on Honor Roll. She was involved with Student Council, National Honor Society, Physics Club, Link Crew, Prom Committee, soccer, track, basketball, volleyball, Peer Tutoring and Junior Rotarians. Her favorite memories are being a fifth grade camp cabin leader, Mr. Coscarelli's VIP and physical education classes, and volleyball.



Heidi Schneider is co-salutatorian. She is the daughter of Jeff Schneider and Lisa Reichow. She plans on attending Huntington University to pursue a degree in Occupational Therapy. Her distinctions include student of the year in numerous subjects and academic honor roll all four years. She has participated in National Honor Society, Thespian Society, Drama Club, Physics Club, and was a Link Crew Leader. Heidi was also active in 4-H where she was treasurer and vice president.



She attends Solid Rock Church where she teaches Sunday school. Her favorite memories include participating in the musicals, float building, AP Chemistry study groups, and attending football games.

Zachary Christian Schaffer is the son of Pat and Angie Schaffer. He plans on attending Taylor University to major in Biology with a concentration in medicine with hopes of becoming a physical therapist and opening his own clinic. His distinctions are the geometry and physical education student of the year, Academic All League - four years in football, basketball and baseball, All League Sportsmanship in football, basketball, and baseball, Honor Roll, Junior Rotarian, captain of the football team, Taylor University Dean Scholarship, Community Life Scholarship, and Endowment Scholarship. He has participated in football, basketball, baseball, Drama Club, Thespian Society, Physics Club, National Honor Society, Link Crew, fifth grade camp counselor, "Grease," and church youth group. He is a volunteer at the Salvation Army homeless shelter, Catherine Cobb domestic violence shelter, and the county fair. His favorite memories are playing under the Friday night lights, eating food in Mr. Noel's room, fifth grade camp, meeting new friends, Spanish class, singing in every class, Homecoming, Prom, Ironman volleyball, and AP Chemistry class.



Kristen Snyder is the daughter of Tom and Kelly Snyder. She plans on attending Central Michigan University to study exercise science and later physical therapy. Her honors include Scholar Athlete Awards for track and basketball, Academic Excellence, Sportsmanship Award for basketball, and LCAA Student Athlete Excellence Award. She participated in basketball, track, National Honor Society, Thespian Society, Drama Club,



Prom Committee, Physics Club, Spanish Club, Stand Up, Speak Out, "Grease," and "Beauty and the Beast" backstage crews, Link Crew, and Junior Rotarians. Her favorite memories include attending football games, spirit week during homecoming, and being a fifth grade camp counselor.

Academic Honors Night

The Academic Honors Awards presentation will be held during the evening of May 30th in the High School Gymnasium. At this time, we will recognize the top ten students of the class of 2012 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.

Graduation

High School Graduation will be held on Friday, June 1st at 7:00pm in the High School Gymnasium. All are invited to attend this memorable night as we celebrate the class of 2012.

MHSAA Tournaments Coming to Blissfield

During the upcoming spring athletic season, Blissfield High School has been selected to host a variety of MHSAA tournaments. Along with the traditional baseball and softball district tournament, Blissfield will host the MHSAA Golf District and, for the first time ever, the District Girls' Soccer Tournament. The golf district will be held at The Legacy Golf Club on Friday, June 1st while the baseball, softball and soccer districts will be held during the week of May 29th with the championship game for all three tournaments occurring on Saturday, June 2nd.

Curing Headaches in Chemistry Class

Students in the AP Chemistry classes synthesized acetylsalicylic acid, commonly known as aspirin, during a lab this month. Following the preparation of the product, the aspirin crystals were tested for purity by analyzing the boiling point of their sample and through colorimetric analysis using the new Vernier® LabQuest technology.



Hailey Jahlas and Angela Baker prepare standards of salicylic acid solutions for analysis. The Theile tube apparatus is ready for melting point analysis.

Middle School Students Help Fight Heart Diseases

Blissfield Middle School students will be participating in the school's eighth annual BMS "Hoops for Heart" activity. The event is organized by the 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 April 27th-May 11th. Parents and friends may donate to this cause with cash or online donations and/or anyone may get a "saving a life is a real sport" red T-shirt for a \$15 donation during the week of May 7th-11th before school in the cafeteria. All middle school students and teachers will participate in "hoops" and other healthy heart activities on May 11th to celebrate their own health and the success of this important community service activity. This is an afternoon of fun and games that the staff and students always look forward to.

Step Right Up and Read!

"Read The Most From Coast To Coast," a national reading event was held on Friday, March 2nd, challenging elementary students to shatter the national one-day record for Accelerated Reader™ Quiz-taking. Accelerated Reader, a reading management software program for K-12 schools, helps educators measure and improve reading comprehension levels. Students read a book at the appropriate level and then take a quiz on a computer. The quiz assesses general comprehension of the book. "Read The Most From Coast To Coast" enabled students to take part in a shared reading adventure, and, at the same time, show the world they understood what they've read. Nationwide students succeeded in shattering the record for the number of AR Quizzes taken in one day. The new one-day record is: 3,581,992! We can be proud of our second through fifth grade students for taking 495 AR tests on March 2nd and contributing an important role in this nationwide effort.

Special thanks to all of the students, parents, staff and community members who supported the elementary "Book Fair Luau: It's a Reading Celebration" on March 5th-9th, which generated \$5,368 to be used solely for the purchase of new books at our elementary library/media center. The book fair provided families an opportunity to promote "Kids that read every day, lead better lives."



Blissfield Middle School will host a Scholastic Book Fair from April 23rd to April 27th. The Book Fair will be open each day from 8:00am to 3:00pm and features a wide range of books for young teens and adults. Parents, children, teachers, and the community are invited to attend. On Thursday, April 19th, there will be an event called "Books & Bagels." This will be an opportunity for parents to preview the book fair while taking a short break from parent-teacher conferences. Fair attendees can also help build classroom libraries by purchasing books for teachers through the classroom wish list program. Proceeds from the fair will go toward new books and equipment for the media center.

Winter Athletes Honored

The Blissfield Athletic Department honored their Winter Athletes at the annual Winter Sports Awards Night on March 15th. Post season honors went to the following athletes: Girls' Basketball – Claire Denecker 1st team LCAA, Laura Goetz and Jamie Friess 2nd team LCAA. Boys' Basketball – Devin Moore 1st team LCAA, Connor Vandecaveye 2nd team LCAA. Competitive Cheer – Jessica Borrmann and Miranda Strack 1st team LCAA and Brianna Yates Honorable Mention LCAA. Wrestling – Alex Seidl, Konnie Lehman, Thomas Jackson and Christian Davis were all Honorable Mention LCAA.

Attention Parents

Students and parents are reminded that the deadline to order 2012 yearbooks is Friday, April 27th. Seniors are reminded to provide Mr. Sullivan a copy of their senior picture or forward a digital senior photo to: 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.

Michigan Merit Exam (MME)

The MME took place March 6th, 7th, & 8th in the high school for all eligible juniors and seniors. As a part of the MME juniors took the ACT, which is a college reportable exam. ACT results should be available 4 to 6 weeks after the exam.

PLAN and EXPLORE

The EXPLORE and PLAN (Pre-ACT) tests have been given to all 9th and 10th grade students. 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 the eleventh grade.

PSAT

PSAT (pre-Scholastic Aptitude Test and National Merit Scholar Qualifying Test) will be given to eleventh grade students in the fall of 2012. 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 2011-2012 school year, so students must register 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 CCC 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 AP tests 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 credits 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. Students can expect to get their classes at the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year. Thanks to the staff, students, and families for putting in the time to select courses that will best meet students' needs.

Wrestlers Set Records

Christian Davis concluded his high school wrestling career competing in the state finals at the Palace of Auburn Hills. During Christian's senior season he captured the MHSAA District Championship and became only the 17th Blissfield wrestler to break the 100 career win mark, finishing with 104 career wins. Christian was named both the team MVP and team captain for the Royals in 2012. Competing along side Christian at the regional finals were senior Nick Edwards, sophomore Dan Barta, and sophomore Cavin Beckey. The Royal grapplers finished the year with 17 dual-meet wins, the most ever by a Blissfield wrestling team.



Fifth Graders Visit Storer Camp

Wow, what a great three days of fifth Grade Outdoor Education! Weather, classes and experiences were fantastic. Our fifth graders had a wonderful time at YMCA Storer Camp near Napoleon, Michigan March 12th through the 14th. The fifth graders experienced an extension of the classroom by covering material in our science and social studies curriculum. Both our students and school received many complements about their behavior and their flexibility in facing new situations.

Our high school cabin leaders did an outstanding job and worked extremely well with our fifth graders! We once again had several staff members comment on the involvement and maturity of our cabin leaders.

The Storer Camp staff was excellent. Our hosts were well prepared and able to give new material to support our curriculum. The horse sense class were most enjoyable. Students learned about horses and overcame their fear of climbing on the back of a large animal and riding horses. Playing "Simon Says" on horse back with no hands on the reins allows the student to understand the docile nature of Storer Camp's horses.

Kids, teachers, and parents alike all expressed excitement for the Outdoor Education Program, which once again provided a positive experience for fifth graders and our cabin leaders!



Nick Pena and Courtney Harris enjoy their time on horseback.



Elijah Southard, Melanie Schoeff, Matthew Bischoff, and Daniel Jackson learn about working together.

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. During the February Board of Education meeting the following winter season athletes were recognized for their academic and athletic prowess: Kelsie Abbott, Tyler Clark, Claire Denecker, Nic Edwards, Laura Goetz, Sara Goetz, Thomas Jackson, Stone MacBeth, Grant Mitchell, Devin Moore, Bailey Pickles, Isaiah Rupp, Zach Schaffer, Kristen Snyder, Emma Tracy, Madison Tracy, Connor Vandecaveye, Jordan Willson, and Brianna Yates.



Lady Royals Finish 12-0

Congratulations to the 7th and 8th grade girls basketball teams who both finished their seasons with undefeated 12 - 0 records! Led on the court by strong leadership and intense defense, the Lady Royals battled hard, enjoying contributions from all team members. Congratulations, ladies!



Design Class

Special thanks to the Blissfield Foundation for Educational Excellence for providing the Middle School Design Class with new educational tools and materials. Mini-grant funds were awarded to help purchase straws for a straw bridge construction project, card stock for students to create and design their own roller coasters, three electronic snap kits to investigate green energy and three snap circuit rovers to promote a hands on approach to learning about circuits. The excitement about these items and activities is amazing.



Kenall Uckele, Charlie Kaster, Hannah Plantier, Adem Hornback, Sean Murphy, Elisha Thompson, and Ashleigh Frigmanski investigate the new electronic snap kits.



Daysia Spiegel, Hannah Brown, Nathan Ruhl, and Rowan Celestino use card stock to begin designing their roller coaster.

Olivia Miller Selected to Perform at State Finals



Blissfield junior Olivia Miller was selected to sing the National Anthem at the MHSAA Wrestling State Finals at The Palace of Auburn Hills (home of the Detroit Pistons). Olivia performed at the beginning of the semi-final session on Friday March 2nd. Only five high school students were selected from around the state to perform during the state finals tournament. In order to be considered, Olivia needed to provide a copy of her performing the Anthem which was reviewed by the selection

committee. Thanks to Mrs. Wanice Linn for her assistance in recording Olivia. Along with her participation as a varsity athlete in girls' soccer, Olivia played the lead role of Sandy in last year's musical "Grease" and had the lead role of Belle in this year's musical "Beauty and the Beast." Congratulations, Olivia!

Opera at Elementary School

The opera "The Ring" was performed by the Toledo Opera Company for our Elementary students during a special assembly on March 20. This performance was underwritten by the Blissfield Foundation for Educational Excellence.



The cast of "The Ring" answer questions from Blissfield Elementary students following their performance.

THE BLISSFIELD

COMMUNICATOR