



Commitment to  
Excellence

# THE COMMUNICATOR

A Quarterly Publication of Blissfield Community Schools



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Excellence

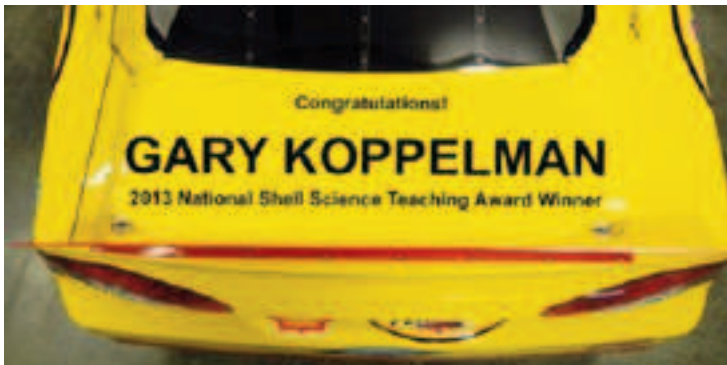
## *From the Superintendent*



Although the first signs of spring are just beginning to appear, preparations are already underway for the 2013-14 school year. Recently, proposed revisions to the K-12 Physical Education curriculum were presented to the District Professional Council and adopted

by our Blissfield Board of Education. These curricular revisions include over \$20,000 being allocated for the purchase and implementation of new fitness equipment, supplies and technology. Similar curricular modifications have occurred in each of the following subject areas since 2008: English/Language Arts, Health, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages.

Please join Blissfield Schools and the National Science Teachers Association as we congratulate fifth grade teacher, Mr. Gary Koppelman upon his recent selection as the 2012-13 Shell National Science Teacher of the Year. As recipient of this most distinguished honor, Mr. Koppelman will receive a \$10,000 prize and an all-expense paid trip to the NSTA National Conference April 11-14 in San Antonio, Texas where he will be recognized during the Teacher Awards Gala on April 12th. This is just the third time an elementary teacher has been selected to receive this award since it was first established in 1990 to recognize exemplary science teachers having a positive impact on their students, school, and community.



Kindergarten Roundup was held on March 12th with sixty-nine 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 November 1st to begin kindergarten. The Great Start Readiness Program is also accepting applications for the 2013-14 school year for qualifying four year old students.

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 11. 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 11 and Friday, April 12, 2013.

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

Sincerely,

*Scott D. Moellenberndt*

## Blissfield Community Schools District Calendar of Upcoming Events

Apr 11	Parent-Teacher Conferences No School for Students
Apr 12	No School for Students/Staff
Apr 15	Board of Education Meeting
Apr 23	Special Board Meeting
Apr 27	High School Prom
May 2	MS Fine Arts Night
May 3	Royal Walk Athletic Physicals at BMS
May 6	AP Testing Begins
May 7	Kdg & 1st Grade Music Program Board Meeting of the Whole
May 8	MS Payback for Education
May 9	County Fine Arts Festival 4th & 5th Grade Music Program
May 10	Progress Reports Distributed MS Solar Cookout MS Hoops for Heart Top 20 Luncheon Notre Dame Band Concert
May 13-16	ES Victorsville Week
May 15	6-12 Grade Band Collage Concert
May 17	3rd Grade Grandparent's Day
May 20	Board of Education Meeting
May 22	HS Fine Arts Festival
May 22-24	8th Grade Camp
May 24	Purple and Gold Day/Elementary School Picnic Seniors Last Day
May 27	No School - Memorial Day
May 29	Academic Awards Night 8th Grade Civil War Camp
May 30	Baccalaureate Senior Breakfast
May 31	8th Grade Celebration High School Graduation
June 3	Spring Sports Awards
June 4	Board Meeting of the Whole
June 8	MHSAA District Baseball/Softball Tourney
June 10	Half Day Student Exams
June 11	Half Day Student Exams/Last Day
June 17	Board of Education Meeting
June 18	Report Cards Distributed
July 15	Board of Education Meeting
Aug 19	Board of Education Meeting

## Mr. Koppelman Honored

Blissfield Community Schools is proud to announce that Blissfield Elementary School fifth grade teacher, Gary Koppelman, has been selected by The NSTA Shell Science Teaching Award Judging Panel as the recipient of the 2013 National Shell Science Teacher Award. After reviewing many applications, watching videos of candidates teaching and interacting with their students, and going on site visits to spend a day with the top three finalists, Mr. Koppelman was chosen by the judging panel as their award winner. Through a partnership between Shell Oil Company and the National Science Teachers Association, the award was established to recognize outstanding classroom teachers who have had a positive impact on students, their school and their community. Its focus is on exemplary science teaching.



Fifth grade teacher, Mr. Gary Koppelman, was recognized at the March Board of Education Meeting for winning this award. Principal Dee Crane spoke about his dedication and presented him with an award.

## Guys and Dolls

The Blissfield High School Department of Fine Arts, in cooperation with the BHS Thespian Society, Drama Club and Musical Theatre Class presented the annual spring musical on March 21st – 23rd. This year, the show was Guys and Dolls. Set in late forties' New York City, this musical comedy was directed by Mrs. Linn, with choreography by Brandi Archer and orchestra direction by Mr. Hollandsworth. The cast of over 50 students sang and danced their way through this double love story, and they were supported by a talented pit orchestra and stage, lighting and sound crew.



Adelaide (Josie Witt) and Nathan (Cordell Smith) congratulate Sky (Robbie Powel) and Sarah (Olivia Miller) on their recent elopement.

## Kindergarten Registration

Blissfield Elementary School's annual kindergarten registration was held on Tuesday, March 12th, with sixty-nine students being enrolled in the "class of 2026." 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 November 1, 2013. 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 20 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 20. 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.



## Music in Our Schools

March is nationally celebrated as both Reading Month and Music In Our Schools Month! Miss Kruger's "Composer's Corner" bulletin board usually features a composer from the past, but in March we covered it with the pictures and signatures of our own BES Royal Musicians, highlighting their many musical accomplishments. Many of our March projects and activities focused on musical literacy, combining the two month-long celebrations!



## Art Students Place in 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 well represented with two students being selected as finalists, including fifth graders, Makenna Ricker, who won an honorable mention, and Lauren Henning, who was the overall grand prize winner. Lauren's winning poster was chosen from over 200 entries and will be featured on a billboard for one month on North M-52, near Howell Highway, in Adrian.

The following students from Mr. Stranges' eighth grade art class participated in the "Love Your Lungs- Keep Them Smoke Free" poster contest. Competing with other Lenawee County 8th Graders were Arian McDowell-3rd place, Julianna Bhullar-honorable mention, Erin Riechow-honorable mention, Brooke Harris-2nd place. Katie Hooker won second prize for the county. Her poster idea will be printed on 30,000 McDonald's place mats that will be used in all Lenawee County McDonald's restaurants.



Fifth grade Lauren Henning of Mr. Koppelman's class shows off her winning poster. Look for it on a billboard soon.

## Sports Physicals for 2013-2014

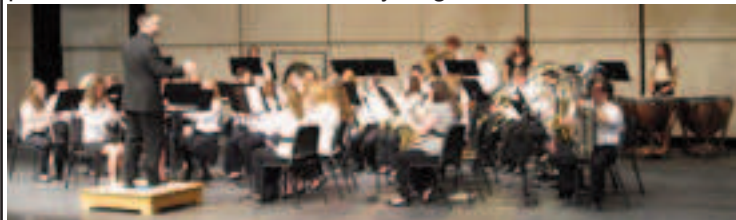
Hard to believe but it is time to begin preparing for the 2013-14 sports year. Students and parents are reminded that in order for an athletic physical to be valid during the 2013-14 school year, the physical must be completed AFTER April 15th, 2013. If you just received a physical for a spring sport, 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 2013-14 school year. The date for physicals will be Friday, May 3rd 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.

## Fine Arts Highlights

The Blissfield High School Band and Blissfield Middle School 7th and 8th Grade Band continue to impress. On March 16, the bands traveled to Adrian High School to participate in the MSBOA Band and Orchestra District Festival. The event is a comprehensive evaluation of a band's skills, including the performance of three prepared selections, as well as a sightreading session, upon which the band performs a piece of music after only five minutes of guided study. Both groups achieved the highest ratings, earning Straight Ones from all judges. A college director in attendance described the performances as "electric." Way to go!



The Blissfield High School Band and Choir traveled to Florida over Spring Break to participate in a variety of Disney Youth Program performance opportunities. The Marching Royals were proud to perform in a parade down Main Street in the Magic Kingdom, while the Blissfield High School Choir sang at EPCOT Center's Futureworld. Both groups also took part in specially designed clinics led by the world-class professional musicians of the Disney team. While in Florida, the students took in the attractions at Blizzard Beach, Magic Kingdom, EPCOT, Animal Kingdom, and Hollywood Studios, as well as a utensil-free dinner at Medieval Times. Thank you to all that have financially supported this trip through fundraising as well as the 20 chaperones that traveled with the group.

The Blissfield Bands are excited to announce two very special concerts in the month of May. A special guest will be performing in Blissfield High School Gym on Friday, May 10 at 7pm. The University of Notre Dame Band, from South Bend, Indiana, will be opening their Spring Tour in our school. The Notre Dame Band will perform a concert on their own, and will conclude with a couple of selections side-by-side with our own BHS Symphonic Band. This is a "pops concert" geared for all ages. Don't miss this very special event! Tickets are \$2 and can be purchased at the door. On Wednesday, May 15 at 7pm, the Blissfield Bands (Grades 6-12) are proud to present their 5th Annual Spring Collage Concert. You won't want to miss this unique presentation of music, video, and a few surprises. Tickets are \$3 per person (4 and under, free) and are available at the door.

## 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, Claire Denecker, Sara Goetz, Thomas Jackson, Elyse Jones, Brooke Marriott, Grant Mitchell, Helen Pearson, Isaiah Rupp, Heidi Sell, Dakota Suiter, Emma Tracy, Madison Tracy, Connor Vandecaveye, Colleen Willson, Jordan Willson, and Brianna Yates.

## Blissfield Elementary's Wax Museum

After hours of hard work and preparation, the time machine worked perfectly! On March 27 guests at the Blissfield Wax Museum were transported back in time as fifth graders read biographies, wrote speeches, and created costumes and props for their portrayal of famous people throughout history. Guests learned about sports legends Lou Gehrig, Babe Ruth, and Mike Ditka. They heard how Washington, Lincoln and Kennedy became President of our great Nation. Milton Hershey, John Deere, and Albert Einstein shared their famous inventions. Elvis, Oprah, and Lucille Ball told how they became household names. Students, parents, and extended families enjoyed the two presentations. This project, although not unique to Blissfield Elementary, has become an important part of our fifth grade curriculum, and adds to the climate of our school and community.



Ben Frye brought history to life as General Custer during this year's Wax Museum.



Elizabeth Keller as Queen Elizabeth I tells her loyal subjects about her life and times.

## Great Practice on Sumdog Math Games

Sumdog is an interactive website with math games for kids of all ages. In the games, students compete against others around the world or from their class, and also against the computer robot. The computer automatically adjusts the difficulty based upon how many problems students complete correctly by memory and moves students up to the next level (represented by different animals). The animals begin as least endangered and increase to the most endangered. To earn the first animal a student may need 500 coins, but other animals, can cost as much as 5,000 coins. Coins are earned by answering each math question correctly.



Like so many other students in Mrs. Lewis' class, Morgan Denniss, Courtney Mason, and Makenna Ricker enjoy competing with other students while practicing their math facts on Sumdog.

## Middle School Intramurals

Spring Intramurals are underway at the middle school. Students are staying active with a variety of after school recreational games including two weeks of floor hockey, basketball, volleyball and/or tennis. There is no cost to participate in the program. All middle school students are eligible to participate, unless they were already part of the school team for a particular sport (basketball or volleyball).



Floor hockey was held March 18th-22nd and 25th-27th. Basketball began April 8-10th and continues April 15th -19th. Finally, intramural volleyball and tennis will occur from April 22nd-25th and May 29th-May 2nd. If the weather is too windy or wet to play tennis, participants may join volleyball that day, or proceed home. Some of the students chose to participate in all of the activities, while others chose only one or two events. Regardless, many have made new friends, and exercised while having fun. If you have questions, or wish to enroll your middle school son or daughter to participate in the upcoming activities, please contact Mrs. Babbitt at the Middle School.

## BHS Student Honored

Diane Dickerson was recently presented the DAR Good Citizen award for Blissfield High School. The Lucy Wolcott Barnem Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, honors one representative from each Lenawee County high school. Students must display qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. Diane was selected by the Blissfield High School teaching staff to be the DAR representative this year. Diane was invited along with her parents and other DAR recipients to a luncheon to present them with a pin and certificate. The luncheon took place on March 21 at the Crowell House on N. Broad St. in Adrian.



Betty Cummings, Regent and Good Citizen Chair presented Diane Dickerson with the award. Parents, Joy and Alan Dickerson were on hand for this honor.

## Junior Transitional Meetings

Director of Student Services, Mark Willson, will be meeting with every junior to discuss credit status, future plans concerning their career pathway, college searches and how to go about the process, scholarship awareness and essay writing as it pertains to college acceptance and scholarship consideration. All juniors are encouraged to stop in the CCC and sign up for a transitional appointment ASAP.

## March Madness

The National Honor Society sponsored a series of activities in March to help raise money and awareness for Backpack Buddies. This program is offered to Blissfield Community School students in grades K-8 in an effort to ensure that all children have enough food to eat at all times. Fundraising activities included, Elementary Hat Day, Supersoak Your Favorite Teacher Change Drive, a Three-Point Shooting Contest, a Student/Staff Basketball Game and Silent Auction.

Students deposited their loose change to vote for their "favorite" teacher, and the teacher with the most change at the end of the week was super soaked! Ms. Yepez was a great sport and dressed the part of the "sitting duck."

Finals for the Three-Point Shooting Contest were held during the Student/Staff Basketball Game on Friday, March 15. Connor Vandecaveye was the winner, with Tyler Ford and Claire Denecker coming in 2nd and 3rd. Six student teams from the high school competed against the thirteen member K-12 staff team. The game was contentious, but the staff again proved victorious!

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 Market, Blissfield Coney Island, Joan & Co., Southward Custom Wood Products, Royal Expressions, Angela's Angel's & Antiques, Burger King, Sutherland Chiropractic, The Legacy, Green Meadows, If-N-When Fishing Charters, Napa Auto and Truck Parts, Schmidt and Sons, and Beckey's Kountry Kitchen. We appreciate your ongoing support of Blissfield Schools. More than \$1700 was raised in all. Thank you parents, students, and staff for participating and supporting the NHS and Backpack Buddies.



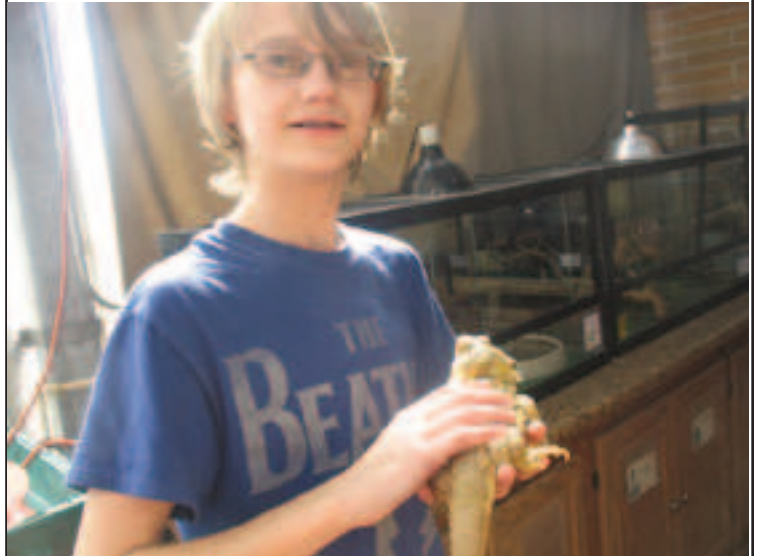
Lee Keinath tries to keep the ball away from varsity basketball coach and elementary teacher Mr. Vandecaveye.



Maddie Tracy and Claire Denecker get ready to super soak their favorite teacher, Ms. Yepez.

## Research in the B.E.L.L. Lab

Mrs. Gray's 7th grade Language Arts class visited the B.E.L.L. lab on March 8th to gather information for their animal research project as part of a unit on scientific writing. For this project the students prepared a concept map outlining the information they wanted to learn about their animal. They then used the internet to find information and took notes on notecards using \$2.00 summaries they learned in class. While at the B.E.L.L. students took notes on their animal's behavior and physical appearance using their senses. Most were able to hold their animal and all were able to use Mrs. Barks as a resource in securing additional information about their animal. They then took their notecards and formed an outline for a research paper they are in the process of writing. In this process students also learned the MLA Bibliography format for citing their sources. It was a great visit and the kids enjoyed being back at the elementary.



Craig Emery researched the bearded dragon and was able to get some hands on time in the BELL.

## Winter Sports Wrap Up

The 2012-13 winter athletic season finished strong as the varsity girls basketball team won their first MHSAA district championship since 2005. The Lady Royals were led by Claire Denecker who picked up her share of post season honors including 1st team All-LCAA, 1st team All-County and 2nd team All-State. Varsity wrestler Dylan Thompson concluded his wrestling career earning All-State honors with a 4th place finish at the MHSAA wrestling tournament. In their first year as a varsity sport, sophomore Emily Cueto was the first bowler to qualify for the MHSAA state tournament due to her strong finish at the regional tournament. Congratulations to all athletes who contributed to a successful winter season. MVP's for the winter season included: Claire Denecker, Jordan Willson, Miranda Strack Dyltan Thompson and Jacob Clark and Emily Cueto.

# Top Ten Students Honored



**Logan Alexander** is the son of Michael and Pamela Alexander. Logan is planning on attending either University of Toledo or University of Michigan to study Electrical Engineering. His academic distinctions include Academic Excellence Award and perfect attendance awards. He participated in National Honors Society, Blissfield High School Band, and played Baseball. His favorite memories of BHS include the

Band trip to New York City in 2011 and playing in the pit band for the school musicals.

**Miles Raleigh DeNudt** is this year's valedictorian. He is the son of Mike and Doris DeNudt. Miles is planning on studying Physics at The University of Michigan where he received the Regents Merit Scholarship. Miles was involved with several school plays, National Honor Society, and Movies on Lane Street. His favorite memories while at BHS are being crowned coming-home king, playing Monopoly in Economics class, going to Forensics meets, and hanging out with his friends.



**Diane Dickerson** is the daughter of Alan and Joy Dickerson. Diane plans to attend Central Michigan University to pursue a degree in Meteorology. Her honors include Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award, Perfect Attendance, Academic Excellence Awards, Outstanding Performance Awards, English Student of the Month, and a Central Michigan University Academic Honors Scholarship. Diane participated in Band and was a Drum Major, Junior

Rotarian, National Honor Society, Link Crew, Pit Orchestra, Prom Committee, Debate Team, Physics Club, Lenawee County Honors Band, and Bell Choir and youth group at her church. Her favorite memories are being a Drum Major, Pep Band at football games, float building, and the band trips to Walt Disney World and New York City.



**Olivia Rose Miller** is the daughter of Leslie and Cindy Miller. Olivia is planning on attending Oakland University to study Business Management and Performing Arts. She was the student of the year in English and Algebra. She earned an Honorable Mention for Girl's Soccer, was a scholar athlete for three years, and was awarded as a Distinguished Young Woman of Lenawee County. After school Olivia was active in

musicals and plays, soccer, Thespian Society, Drama Club, Link Crew, Physics Club, 4-H, National Honor Society, Debate, Forensics, Student Council. Prom Committee, Marching Band, and Lenawee County Honors Band. Her favorite memories are winning soccer districts, going to New York with the Band, performing in the high school plays and musicals, singing the National Anthem for the MHSAA Wrestling Finals, and performing Beauty & the Beast in ten minutes.

**Robert Powel** is this year's Salutatorian. Robert is the son of Donald and Charlotte Powel. He will be attending the University of Michigan where he plans to study Physics. His honors include being a Scholar Athlete, All League First Team in Soccer, All County in Soccer and Most Valuable Player. Robert was involved with National Honor Society, President of the Physics Club, Marching Band, Treasurer of the Thespians Society,



Captain of Varsity Soccer and was cast in performances at the Croswell Opera House and BHS. His favorite memories of BHS are winning the District Championship for Soccer and travelling to New York with the High School Band.

**Isaiah Gerig Rupp** is the son of Dan and Nancy Rupp. Isaiah plans to attend Owens College to get an associates degree as a Physical Therapist's Assistant then transfer to Grand Valley State to become a Physical Therapist. Isaiah was World History Student of the Year, Scholar Athlete for three years while playing Soccer, Football and Basketball, and a Top Five Debater in the county at the Novice Level. He was involved with Soccer, Basketball, Football,



National Honor Society, Debate Team, Physics Club and Junior Rotarians. Isaiah's favorite memories are Sauk Valley, Football Playoffs, and Anatomy with Mr. Coscarelli.

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

**Anna Louise Schmidt** is the daughter of Ron and Barb Schmidt. Anna will be studying Special Education at Siena Heights University where she received the Siena Heights Prestige Full Tuition Scholarship. Her distinctions include Perfect Attendance, Student of the Year Awards in various subjects, Homecoming Queen, Coach's Award in Track, Principal's List, and Scholar Athlete Award. Anna was President of Student Council, President of Thespian Society, Vice President of National Honor Society, and was involved with Link Crew, Junior Rotarian, Stand Up-Speak Out, Physics Club, Spanish Club, Class Council, Prom Committee, Track Team Captain and St. Michael Lutheran Church Youth Group. Her favorite memories are of musicals, plays, Homecoming week, and Challenge Day.



**Brittane Viktoria Toth** is the daughter of Mary and David Gano. Brittane plans on attending Spring Arbor University where she has been awarded the highest academic scholarship. She plans to study Psychology or Counseling. Her distinctions include Spanish Award all four years, Perfect Attendance Award, English Awards, and Science Awards. She has participated in volleyball, track, dance, Link Crew, National Honor Society, Stand Up-Speak Out, Junior Rotarian, and Student Council. Her favorite memories include the dances, being a part of sports teams and getting to play in volleyball districts, announcing pep assemblies, setting up for Prom, crowning Lizzie Slomski Prom Queen, and running to China Buffet after a debate match without Mr. Pooley knowing.

**Grayson William Strouse** is the son of Tracy Papenhagen and William Strouse, Jr. Grayson was accepted to the University of Michigan with a full tuition scholarship from the ROTC program and is awaiting acceptance to West Point where he plans to study Mechanical Engineering. His distinctions are LCAA Student Athlete Excellence Award, LCAA All-League Football, All District and All Region Scholar Athlete Baseball, High Honors Award, National Physical Fitness Award, Academic Excellence Awards in Spanish, English, Chemistry and History. Grayson has participated in Junior Rotarian, Varsity Football and Baseball, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, JROTC officer, Class President Freshman Year, youth group at First Presbyterian Church, and Rotary Youth Leadership. His favorite memories are playing playing football under the tutelage of Coaches Ron Estes and Denny Thompson.



**Jordan Mark Willson** is the son of Mark and Karla Willson. Jordan plans on attending the University of Michigan to major in Movement Science with a pre-med focus. His honors include Student of the Year for Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, and Debate, Homecoming King, Captain of the Football team, All League Linebacker, Sportsmanship Award winner, All League Discus Thrower, Basketball Captain, Basketball MVP, and Scholar Athlete Award. He participated in Varsity Football, Basketball and Track, National Honor Society, Physics Club, and Link Crew. Jordan's favorite memories include hanging out with his friends, participating in sports, and all of the Homecoming, Coming-home and Prom festivities.

## Academic Honors Night

The Academic Honors Awards presentation will be held during the evening of May 29th in the High School Gymnasium. At this time, we will recognize the top ten students of the class of 2013 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.

## Commencement

High School Graduation will be held on Friday, May 31st at 7:00pm in the High School Gymnasium. All are invited to attend this memorable night as we celebrate the class of 2013.

## High School Prom

"Enchanted Forest" will be the theme for prom 2013. This magical event will take place at Central Park West in Maumee, Ohio, Saturday, April 27th, from 8:00-11:00 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.

## Preschool Off to a Great Start

The GSRP Preschool is up and running and the children have been very busy since beginning in January. The children have become accustomed to the school atmosphere and routines. They have enjoyed making new friends and experiencing all of the activities the classroom offers them. Each week the children follow a schedule of math on Monday, language on Tuesday, science on Wednesday, and art experiences on Thursday. Content areas they have experienced have been primary colors, magnets, sink and float, chemical reactions, dinosaurs, maps, fine motor activities, letter/numeral recognition, and holiday celebrations. There is so much more to come!

The Blissfield GSRP program is currently accepting applications for the 2013-2014 school year. Applications are available through the Elementary School office during the school day. Children must be four years old by November 1. Please call 486-2811 for further information.



Izaiah Weed and Daemon-Kane Bush make water color washed paper Easter eggs to decorate an Easter tree in the great start classroom.

## Guest Readers

To help celebrate March is Reading Month, Mr. Ricker's 6th hour Pre-Calculus class traveled to the Elementary to read to the Kindergarten classes. This turned out to be a big day for the kindergartners as they also received a visit from Clifford the Big Red Dog and went to the book fair.



Junior, Arianna McLaughlin engaged with some of Blissfield Elementary's bright young minds as they decide which story they want her to share.

## Dual Enrollment

Students who are interested in dual enrolling Fall semester, 2013, should plan to attend a meeting on May 14, 2013 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.

## Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you to the wonderful volunteers, students, parents, grandparents, and staff who supported the Blissfield Elementary School Scholastic Book Fair "Story Laboratory Reading Gives You Super Power," March 1-8. Book sales were wonderful due to the efforts many made to shop or even order books that were in short supply. As a result of their generosity, our sales totaled \$14,061.36. Thank you for helping us meet our book sales goal while reinforcing the importance of reading. Mrs. Puszczewicz and the volunteers were elated in the book choices the students made! "I cannot think of anything better for them to spend their money than by purchasing a brand new book," said Mrs. Puszczewicz



The book fair would not have been a success without the help of hard working volunteers who did an incredible job setting up, writing wish lists for students, selling, restocking and even packing up. The Scholastic Book Fair is serves as our primary fund raiser and allows us to purchase materials for the media center. We received a percentage of every item purchased resulting in a profit of \$4,030.68.

Our classroom teachers appreciate the generous donations of classroom books they received through the Classroom Wish List program during the book fair. The book fair encourages the love of reading and helps make our school library and classrooms even more rewarding places to learn. Thank you again for your support in making our book fair a success!

## Smarter Balanced Assessment Pilot Program

Students from both the Blissfield Elementary School (3rd & 4th grade English Language Arts) as well as Blissfield High School (10th grade Mathematics) will be taking part in a pilot program for Smarter Balanced Assessment. The new assessment program, which will be implemented during the 2014 – 2015 school year 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)

The MME took place March 5, 6, & 7th 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 completion of the exam. Results for WorkKeys: Reading for Information, Applied Mathematics, and Locating Information, and Michigan Math, Science, and Social Studies will be available by the end of the school year.

## PLAN and EXPLORE

All freshmen and sophomores had the opportunity to take the EXPLORE & PLAN tests respectively. The EXPLORE & PLAN tests are part of the ACT Program and are given to all 8th, 9th, and 10th grade students. These tests can help students identify academic strengths as well as areas needing improvement prior to taking the Michigan Merit Exam in the 11th grade. Scheduling for prep classes could be effected depending on scores achieved on these tests.

## PSAT

PSAT (pre-SAT and National Merit Scholar Qualifying Test) will be given to eleventh grade students in the fall of 2013. 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 2012-2013 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 2013-2014 school year.

## Virtual Classes

Students who are interested in taking a virtual class during Fall semester, 2013, should plan to attend a meeting on May 15, 2013 during VIP in the CCC. All students who plan on taking a virtual class during first semester of the 2013-14 school year need to attend so that the virtual budget can be built and the classes can be reserved.

## Middle School Students Help Fight Heart Disease

Blissfield Middle School students will be participating in the school's 9th annual BMS "HOOPS FOR HEART" activity. The event is organized by the health and physical education department 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 26th-May 9th, 2013. Parents and friends who donate to this cause with cash or online donations receive a "Rock the Beat" red T-shirt. For more information or to volunteer your assistance please contact Lisa Babbitt at the Middle School.

Following our fundraising efforts, all middle school students and teachers will participate in "HOOPS" and other healthy heart activities on May 10th (weather permitting). The staff and students always look forward to this afternoon of fun and games. Students who turn in donations of at least \$10 or who purchase a T-shirt by May 8th, will be allowed to sign up with friends that they would like to compete with during our afternoon of fun. All other students will be assigned.

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. Go to [www.americanheartassociation.org](http://www.americanheartassociation.org) for more information. The Heart Association uses the profit to improve emergency response and treatment of heart attack, cardiac arrest, and stroke. It also supports their heart and stroke research program which ultimately will lead to better ways to diagnose, treat, and prevent cardiovascular diseases.

Just think, if every student could raise just \$10, we would raise almost \$3000. If your heart speaks to you on this issue, you know anyone who lives with a heart disease, and/or you have lost a loved one to any heart disease, please consider supporting our youth in their effort to support the American Heart Association. Every dollar counts toward meeting this year's goal of raising \$2013.

## Yearbooks

High School students and parents are reminded that the deadline to order 2013 yearbooks is Friday, April 19th. 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.

## Fifth Grade Camp

Wow, what a fantastic time the 5th grade students had at YMCA Storer Camps near Napoleon, Michigan March 11th –March 13th for their Outdoor Education Experience! 94 students and 20 high school cabin leaders along with all four of the 5th grade teachers attended! It was on the cool side but that did not stop 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 37th year of experiencing 5th Grade Camp! (Parents, do you remember going out looking for snipe?)



Joshua White, Jordan Crane, Cade Hayford and Clay Winchel shown with their survival shelter they built in Gimmie Shelter Class.

## Kindergarten

What a year! It is hard to believe that our school year in Mrs. L. Mueller's kindergarten class is coming to an end. We have grown so much these past few months. The progress that we have made will help us to become very successful first graders! We have completed all our letters and words and have been working very hard with writing and phonics for our own writing journals. We had a blast celebrating March Is Reading Month - we even had a special visit and story from Clifford the Big Red Dog. Along with celebrating reading, we celebrated our 100th day of school and the usual winter holidays. We have turned into quite the mathematicians - working with such an abstract topic is hard sometimes but we are very good with our math materials. Mrs. Mueller says we will be reading like superstars before long! Science has been a blast too - we now know what living and non-living things are and can tell anyone who asks what living things need to survive. We are looking at our Earth, what it is made up of, and how to take care of it so that the Earth is here for years to come. To end our first school year as kindergartners, we will have some fun with recycling and inventive spelling - and we will write our own class dictionary to use over the summer. We sure have had fun this school year, making new friends and memories to last a lifetime.

## March is Reading Month

Keeping with the Scholastic Book Fair theme "Story Laboratory...Reading Gives You Super Power" our elementary school students have been enjoying March is Reading Month. March has been full of science and super-hero themed activities like learn five of the elements on the periodic table, research a scientist, attend a "Wonders of the Universe" school assembly, do something GREEN on St. Patrick's Day...recycle, reduce, and reuse. There have also been special dress days like slip into a good book by wearing their slippers at school; a hat/bandana day; silly sock day; super-hero dress day by wearing a super-hero T-shirt, a partial costume or a full body costume; bring a stuffed animal to school; and a pajama day. Mrs. Valerie Veld, one of our preschool teachers, has also been engaging our students by talking about becoming a published author.

James Patterson, a best selling author, says, "Reading—no matter what kinds of books they prefer—is the best and only way our kids will be able to grasp a firm footing in this life. Never deny them a book at the store or the library. Make time for reading 20 minutes a day in your house. Read books alongside them. Make the act of reading cool."

From family story time to reading aloud to them, there are plenty of ways to make your children full-fledged life-long readers. From showing your child your own children's books from years ago to going to a bookstore and seeing eye catching, colorful new covers, both can ignite a love of reading into your child. If you cannot afford new books, visit the library often and shop for books at garage/yard sales, and used bookstores. Get a subscription in his or her name to an age-appropriate magazine for your child. When relatives and others ask for gift ideas, suggest magazine subscriptions, books, or a book store gift certificate. Make reading fun!



Alex Roberts as Tutu woman, Jessica Knaggs as Peace girl, Joslyn Hill as Batwoman, Ricky Eisenmann as Black Bandit, Jim Brown as Geography Boy, Mr. Sear's students show off their super powers.

THE BLISSFIELD

# COMMUNICATOR