



Commitment to
Excellence

THE COMMUNICATOR

A Quarterly Publication of Blissfield Community Schools



Commitment to
Excellence

From the Superintendent



The month of January marks the annual observance of School Board Recognition Month - a time to salute the work of school board members and celebrate public education. It is designated as a time to salute the work of elected school board members throughout the state of Michigan and celebrate public education. The theme of this year's celebration, "School Boards LeadStrong," reflects our combined commitment to leadership and accountability assuring that ALL children succeed.

As citizen leaders, individual school board members face complex and demanding challenges. Yet few people fully understand the scope and far-reaching implication of board members' responsibilities. Their job is to establish a vision for the education program, design a structure to achieve that vision, ensure schools are accountable to the community and strongly advocate continuous improvement in student learning. That job entails an endless string of meetings and school functions to attend: reams of reports, agendas, proposals and other information to read and study; and a host of difficult decisions to make.

In Blissfield, school board members must develop policies and make decisions on educational and social issues impacting the entire community. They bear responsibility for an annual budget of \$11 million, 1,240 students, 175 employees and three school buildings. They carry out the truest form of representative government by providing volunteer public service and help preserve the core of our democracy through public education

Too often we neglect to recognize the dedication and hard work of these men and women who represent our community. Therefore, I encourage you to join with others throughout our district to contact the following individuals to express your appreciation for their years of dedicated service to the students of Blissfield Community Schools.

Noel Eisenmann, President	5 years
Chad Horky, Vice President	4 years
Brian McEwan, Secretary	3 years
Linda Hamann, Treasurer	8 years
Scott Abbott, Trustee	1 year

JoDee Friess, Trustee	7 years
Vicky Lombard, Trustee	2 years

Sincerely,

Scott D. Moellenberndt

School Board Election May 3, 2011

Voters in Blissfield will be seeking two members to our School Board for four-year terms during the election on May 3, 2011.

Anyone interested in running may pick up nominating petitions at the Township Office. They must be returned to the Township Office by Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2011 at 4:00 pm. Polls are located at Blissfield Fire Hall on US 223.

Blissfield Community Schools District Calendar of Upcoming Events

Jan 29	HS District Solo & Ensemble
Feb 7	Special Board Meeting
Feb 9	Student Count Day
Feb 9	Team District Wrestling Tournament
Feb 12	Individual District Wrestling Tournament
Feb 14-18	MS Book Fair
Feb 18	No School - Professional Development
Feb 21	Board of Education Meeting
Feb 24	MS and HS Pre Festival Band Concert
Feb 25	Progress Reports Distributed
Mar 1	MME Testing Begins
Mar 7-11	ES Book Fair
Mar 10	Winter Athletic Awards Night
Mar 14-16	Fifth Grade Camp
Mar 15	Kindergarten Round-Up
Mar 18-19	MS and HS District Band Festival
Mar 21	Board of Education Meeting
Mar 24-26	High School Musical
Mar 25	3rd Quarter Marking Period Concludes
Mar 26	State Solo and Ensemble
Apr 1	Report Cards Distributed
Apr 4-10	Spring Recess
Apr 18	Board of Education Meeting
Apr 21	No School K-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences
Apr 22	No School - Good Friday
Apr 30	High School Prom

Heritage Day Comes to Elementary School

On Thursday, November 4, Blissfield Elementary students celebrated Heritage Day. Over 35 demonstrators and exhibitors volunteered their time spending the entire day sharing many lost arts from the past. Throughout the hallways, these volunteers demonstrated woodworking, music, butter making, apple pressing, tin punching, and much more. Outdoors, students were treated to a military camp complete with soldiers, a blacksmith, and cooking over an open-fire. Heritage Day is celebrated at the elementary every other year, with Butch and Kathy Miller coordinating the event and already having begun thinking about Heritage Day 2012. This was an extraordinary learning opportunity for everyone!



Mr. Dick Hall demonstrates corn shelling to a group of kindergartners

Vocal Music at BCS

Students participating in the Vocal Music program are ready to begin a new semester filled with new challenges. The High School Concert Choir recently presented their winter concert which was well attended and their performance was highly praised. They will begin the second semester preparing for their first adjudicated performance at the Lenawee County Choral Music Festival at Northville High School on March 16th and 17th. You are also invited to attend our final concert of the year, the Blissfield Fine Arts Festival, on Tuesday, May 24th at 7:00 on the High School Stage. The Middle School Choir also performed in their first concert on December 20th to a full house. Their first challenge of the new semester will be to expand their repertoire from Three-Part Mixed Choir to a four-part concert chorus. You can hear this talented group perform on Tuesday, May 3rd at 7:00 at the Middle School.



Sopranos Olivia Miller, Ariel Emery, and Niccy Jahlas are joined by Mezzo Soprano, Taylor Wendel, Contralto, Rachel Shields and the ladies of the BHS Concert Choir in a stirring arrangement of Gesu Bambino.

Impressive Showing by BHS Debate Team

Participating in the 2010 County Debate Tournament, the Blissfield High School Public Speaking class placed third with a record of three wins and one loss. More impressively, four out of the six County Top Speaker Awards went to Blissfield students with Cindy Geer taking 1st place, Katie Kimmelman 3rd place, Danielle Davis finishing 4th, and Jimmy Stump in 5th place.

Following the county tournament, the 36 member team participated in a school-wide 16 team tournament. The four students pictured below represent the undefeated teams from 4th and 5th hour Public Speaking. Their talents were displayed throughout the final round of live competition held before 100 students and five teacher judges during VIP on December 20.



The Affirmative Team (pictured left) of Emily Wolfe and Teacia Sheldon won the contest against The Negative Team (right) of Morgan MacBeth and Emily Scholl by a close margin.

Choir Sings to Seniors

On Friday, December 10, the Fourth and Fifth Grade Enrichment Choir took their Christmas Concert "on the road" as they visited both Blissfield Place and Daybreak Adult Respite Care Center. The choir shared their music and visited with these very special senior citizens. Students enjoyed the experience, while the adults were a most appreciative audience. Many new friends were made during this event. The choir was also busy throughout December as they also held a concert, appeared on Channel 13, and provided a special performance at the December Board of Education meeting.



Choir members sing at Daybreak Adult Respite Care Center in Adrian

Backpack Buddy Program Fundraisers

The Blissfield Middle School Student Council Executive Officers presented Mr. Whitmore with a check for \$1,824.71. Following a week long fundraiser called Penny Wars, in which pennies counted as positive points for teams and silver coins or paper bills counted as negative points toward opposing teams. All proceeds went to the Backpack Buddy Program which will help to assist students who may not have adequate food over the weekend during the winter months. Mr. Whitmore has spearheaded this program modeled after a program developed in his home state of Missouri. Job well done by the students at Blissfield Middle School and a special thanks to Mr. Whitmore for promoting this program!

The High School collected over 500 food items to donate to the Backpack Buddy program during a food drive sponsored by Student Council. Mr. Jones's first hour was the winner of the week long competition, earning doughnuts before the winter holiday break. Student council also donated over \$700.00 to the Backpack Buddy program, earned in part by PJ day where students paid \$1.00 to wear pajamas.

Two events took place at the elementary school to raise funds for the Backpack Buddies Program. On December 20, staff members participated in a special "Dress Down Day" where, for a \$5.00 donation, they could wear their jeans, t-shirts and tennis shoes. On December 21, students and staff members were allowed to wear hats all day at school...cost was \$1.00 to participate. A total of \$478.00 was raised. Anyone interested in making a contribution toward the Backpack Buddy Program should contact Mr. Aaron Whitmore at (517) 486-4420 Ext. 4209.



The Middle School Penny War fundraiser earned a bucketful of money.

Michigan Merit Exam (MME)

High school juniors will take the MME March 1–March 3, 2011. As a part of the MME, juniors will also take the ACT, which is a college reportable exam. ACT results should be available four to six weeks following completion of the exam.

Make a Difference Day

October is always the month when our elementary students celebrate "Make a Difference Day." This is usually a week long event designed, coordinated and implemented by the Fifth Graders. This year they decided their theme would be, "Make A Change One Penny At A Time." They spent the week collecting change, with the goal of assisting the Lenawee County Mission and their homeless project. This continued during the "One Night Without A Home" box project. In typical Blissfield fashion, "pocket change" came to school in large bags. By weeks end, a check for \$800.00 was presented to Pastor Steven Palmer for use at the Lenawee County Mission. Great job fifth graders in designing such a successful project and thanks to all our students and their families for their contributions!



Pictured is a group of our fifth graders presenting the check to Pastor Palmer and other residents of the Mission. They wanted to show off their special fifth grade t-shirts, and also wanted a photograph that wasn't so serious. It turned out too cute to pass up!

Link Crew Tutoring

The BHS Link Crew Leaders now offer tutoring to their crew members every Thursday in the Media Center. One of the key components of the Link Crew program is helping freshmen students achieve academic success. In an effort to encourage this support, the BHS Link Leaders are now available to tutor their freshman crew members. Each Thursday has been set aside during VIP specifically for the Link Crew Program. Please encourage your student to seek out this valuable resource at Blissfield High School.



Link Leader Laura Goetz helps Kelsie Abbott and Nathan Underhill with their homework during VIP.

Reader's Theater

Students in Mrs. Hibdon's second-grade class presented two Reader's Theater performances for parents and guests on November 8, 2010. The first Reader Theater was "Who Is Stronger?" North Wind (Keegan Martin) and Yellow Sun (Madison Koester) argued to see which one of them could make Chilly Man (Nic Jensen) take off his coat. In the second Reader Theater performance, "Fiddle Diddle", Grasshopper (Ricky Eisenmann) frittered his time away while Queen Ant (Charlotte Hanson) and her workers stored food for winter. The sad, hungry grasshopper was left out in the cold when winter arrived.



Ricky Eisenmann, Charlotte Hanson, and Ethan Celestino perform in "Fiddle Diddle."

SNAAP Comes to BMS

Good News! SNAAP has begun. The Blissfield Middle School 8th graders have started a new program called SNAAP (Student Network Academic Assist Program) that allows students to assist others with their math during VIP. Students have been selected for the program in either an assistant or participant role. Groups began meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays on January 11th. This program has the potential to grow to other grades as well as other subjects. Anyone having questions about this program are encouraged to contact Mrs. Renwand or Mrs. Atkinson.



Andrew Renwand, Stephen White, Austin Rule, Jacob Kopka (Front table) Damon Mossor, Dan Mckenzie, Caleb Schaffer, Cody Jenks (back table) collaborate on their math work.

Reading Buddies

For the first time this year students in Mrs. Mills and Mrs. Lundquist's classes are working together as reading buddies. The two classes get together once a week to work on reading skills and other activities. This fall the students completed an art project together and a fall graphing math activity including candy corn and candy pumpkins. The two classes enjoy getting together and learning from one another.



Bradley McCarty, Dominik Nickelson, and Clayton Montange work on their fall graphing activity.

State of Michigan Competitive Scholarship

Students who wish to be considered for the State of Michigan Competitive Scholarship must achieve a qualifying ACT assessment score (23 or above), demonstrate financial need, be a Michigan resident, enroll at least half time at an eligible Michigan college, be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or approved refugee and not have a bachelor's degree. When completing the ACT Assessment Registration Folder, students should use their correct Blissfield High School code in Block L, which is 230 – 345. Release of scores to that scholarship program may also be accomplished by listing code 2076 in Block 0 of the registration folder. To be assured of on-time consideration, applicants planning to enroll in college during the 2011-2012 school year, should have taken The ACT Assessment test no later than December 2010. ACT registration packets are available in the CCC.

Scholarships

Many scholarship deadlines are quickly approaching. The latest deadline is March 31st for most local scholarships. Seniors are encouraged to keep seeking out and applying for as many scholarship opportunities as is possible. A running list of scholarships has been posted in the CCC for all students, and individuals are also encouraged to search the LISD Web-Site, Institutional Web Sites, as well as www.fastweb.com for locating scholarship opportunities.

Educational Development Plan

All students in grades 9-12 should have their EDP completed at this time. If it is not, please visit the CCC to do so. This is a great resource as students plan for their academic and/or employment future.

Blissfield High School to Perform "Grease"

On March 24-26, the Blissfield Community Schools' Department of Fine Arts will present the musical, "Grease." This "Nifty Fifties" classic provides a fun-filled evening of entertainment for music lovers of all ages. A cast of over forty students will sing and dance their way to stardom. You won't want to miss this fabulous event. Tickets will go on sale in early March, so watch our local newspaper for advertisements.



Mrs. Mueller Honored

The Lenawee Intermediate School District recently named Linda Mueller, kindergarten teacher at Blissfield Elementary School, as Educator of the Week. In addition to her responsibilities as a kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Mueller serves as the kindergarten grade level team leader, and is a member of the elementary school Building Council and the District's Professional Council. Mrs. Mueller was nominated for this award by her peers who recognize her as a dedicated teacher who brings out the best in all of her young students. She is a valued member of our school family, and greatly respected by her students, their families, and our community. Congratulations Mrs. Mueller!



High School Announcements Online

Blissfield High School Daily Announcements are now linked through the BHS Homepage at <http://www.blissfieldschools.us/highschool/>. Just click the link and a powerpoint presentation will open up including the announcements students hear each morning and are also displayed on the cafetorium monitor.

FAFSA Free Application for Student Aid

The Federal government is encouraging families to use the online method for filing the application. You may receive a paper application by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 800-4-FED-AID or by visiting www.edpubs.org. Use this free application form to apply for federal and state student grants, work-study and loans. All financial aid forms should be received by FAFSA no later than March 1, however students are encouraged to check with their chosen post secondary institution to confirm its FAFSA due date. You will need your 2010 tax information to complete this form.

Change Comes to Fifth Grade

Fifth Graders have learned that change can be a good thing. "It's All About Change" has been the theme for the school year. Their first change came with the introduction of departmentalized Fifth Grade classes where students have different teachers for math, reading, science, and social studies. Instruction is provided by a content area specialist, with homeroom teachers being responsible for writing, spelling, and other activities. This change has been very positive for students and instruction.

Their next change included a different kind of change, spare change. The fifth graders were in charge of the annual Make A Difference Day project where they collected change for the Lenawee Mission.

Then in December, students helped to "make a change" in the lives of a family for Christmas. The students collected change over a three week period of time. They shopped for the gifts during an after school trip to Wal-Mart. The recipients were overwhelmed by the students' generosity.

The students are sure additional change is in the future as they conclude elementary school and look forward to transitioning to middle school.



Students John Townes, Kelsey Noel, Alexis Schoeff, and Cassie Harris wrap gifts for their adopted family.

Blissfield Band Highlights

HIGH SCHOOL—The Blissfield Marching Royals capped an exciting marching season with Straight Ones at the District Marching Band Festival in October at Jackson Northwest High School. Their show, *Across the Universe*, earned high marks in Music, Marching, and General Effect. In November, several Royals were selected to perform in the Lenawee County Honors Band, hosted at Adrian College. Representing Blissfield HS in this select ensemble were: Diane Dickerson; Rachel Shields; Courtney Whiteman; Ariel Emery; Kennadi Auth; Chris Dashner; Nic Edwards; Caroline Binns; Brandyn Hoag; and Jacob Mellem. In December, the Band, Choir, and Art Department collaborated for a wonderful Holiday Concert. Nearly 350 people were treated to a night of music and art, capped by a short reception sponsored by our Band Boosters. Also in December, Rachel Shields and Brandyn Hoag had an opportunity to play with the University of Michigan Marching Band, along with over 300 band members from across the state, at U of M's annual indoor concert at Crisler Arena. Finally, Rachel Shields and Ariel Emery auditioned and were accepted to play in the Eastern Michigan University High School Honors Band. This weekend of activities culminated in a performance at EMU's Pease Auditorium on January 9. The high school band is now preparing for District Band and Orchestra Festival, as well as an exciting four day trip to New York City in April.



MIDDLE SCHOOL—Highlighting the fall and winter for the 7th and 8th Grade Bands was an opportunity to play with the HS Marching Band during the Homecoming festivities in October. In November, the following students represented BMS very proudly, earning Division One ratings for their solos at Solo and Ensemble at Charlotte MS: Carlee Wanless; Madeline Auth; Daysia Spiegel; and Rebecca Shields. Additionally, Rebecca auditioned and was selected as one of eight French horn players to play in the All-State Middle School Band at the annual Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids in January. This is a very distinguished ensemble, representing the finest players from across the state. All Bands, along with the MS Choir, combined for a wonderful evening of music at the Winter Concert in December, performing for a full house of over 600 people!

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL—The 5th Grade Band kicked off in late October, and is proud to announce that nearly 50 young people started band this year! Look for them to give their first performance in late March or early April.

Hammers, Drills, Catapults and Thrills

Students in 6th Grade Science Olympiad class built scale model replica catapults and trebuchets. Students researched the history of siege weapons and determined if they work better with or without wheels and with a fixed or hinged counter weight. They created blueprints of their ideas for construction. After safety lessons, they used tools to create their works. All students were allowed the same amount of time, materials and one five lb weight. With a little blood, sweat, and duct tape, the machines competed for distance and accuracy. It was a great project the taught history, safety and basic construction skills.



Mackenzie Bausman aligns her axle



Kameryn Cornell hammers as Savannah Karl helps.

Blissfield High School Graduates Loan Program

Blissfield High School Graduates have available a unique student loan program (Bachmayer & Flora Ellis Fund).

The criteria for the 0% A.P.R. loan are as follows:

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

*Other rules may apply and can be discussed with our friendly staff in the Blissfield Community Schools Administrative Offices (517) 486-2205.

Website Update

By visiting our website, www.blissfieldschools.us, you can access many of your students' accounts including Meal Magic, AlertNow, and Lunch Deposit. You can also visit district, building, and teacher pages. Please check regularly for updates.

Scheduling

BHS and BMS eighth grade students are in the process of requesting classes and scheduling for the Lenawee Tech Center for the 2011-2012 school year. The preliminary scheduling sheets, which must garner a parent or guardian signature, are due to the CCC at the beginning of February, Tech Center applications will be due shortly thereafter. Thanks to the staff, students and families for putting in the time to select courses that will best meet students' needs.



Challenging Coordinates

Mr. McVay's third hour social studies students Jesse Reaster and Abigail Kaster walk on geographical coordinates to gain a more concrete sense of latitude and longitude. This is a supplemental lesson for students as it serves as a prerequisite lesson for understanding GPS coordinates and what latitude and longitude really mean with regard to how we use them in our daily lives.



Core Studies Investigation

Tucker Cross and Jake Fitzpatrick have created animal cell models out of playdough. The students used the models to help them identify animal/plant cell parts as well as the function of each part. This hands-on experience ties into Mr. Novak's Science Class as the students are currently studying animal and plant cells.

Reminder to all parents:

Applications for free and reduced price meals are available all school year at any of our school offices or online at www.lunchapplication.com.



Fall Scholar Athletes

The students pictured above were recognized by the Board of Education upon achieving Scholar Athlete status for maintaining a minimum 3.5 GPA while participating on a varsity team during the fall season.

Front Row: Zoe Brennan, Ean Sablich, Robbie Powel, Lauren Yates, Tony Renwand, Stephanie Salters

Back Row: Tyler Babbitt, Jason Slomski, Zach Schaffer, Laura Goetz, Dalton Goetz, Jordan Willson, Grayson Strouse

Not Pictured: Eric Schmidt, Devin Moore, Thomas Jackson, Jordan Bateson, Celia Coopshaw, Ashley LaRoy, Cam Raich, Isaiah Rupp



Blissfield Foundation for Education Excellence (BFEE) is sponsoring a Classroom Connection campaign in an attempt to raise \$25,000 for technology enhancements at Blissfield Community Schools. If you have yet to donate, please take a few moments to submit a contribution to help improve technology for our students and teachers. We ask you to do it today. Working together will allow us to make many great improvements. Any amount will help. Donation cards are available at each of the schools. Please mail your donation to: Blissfield Foundation for Educational Excellence, 630 S. Lane, Blissfield, MI 49228.

Michigan Reads! Program

Working with the Detroit Red Wings and the Detroit Pistons, the Michigan Education Association is offering a great incentive program designed to get our children reading. From January 1 until April 1, students need to read five age appropriate books. Once parents or teachers confirm that the books have been read, they go to www.MichiganReads.com to register. All participating students will not only benefit from their reading but also have a chance to see either the Red Wings or the Pistons live and in action. Go online to www.MichiganReads.com to learn more about this program.



January is School Board Recognition Month



Noel Eisenmann
President
(5 years)



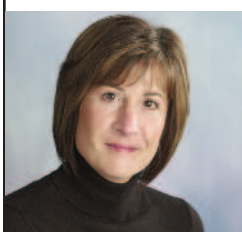
Chad Horky
Vice President
(4 years)



Linda Hamann
Treasurer
(8 years)



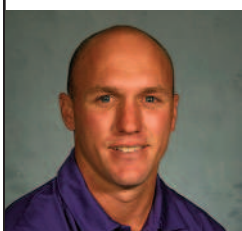
Brian McEwan
Secretary
(3 years)



JoDee Friess
Trustee
(7 years)



Vicki Lombard
Trustee
(2 years)

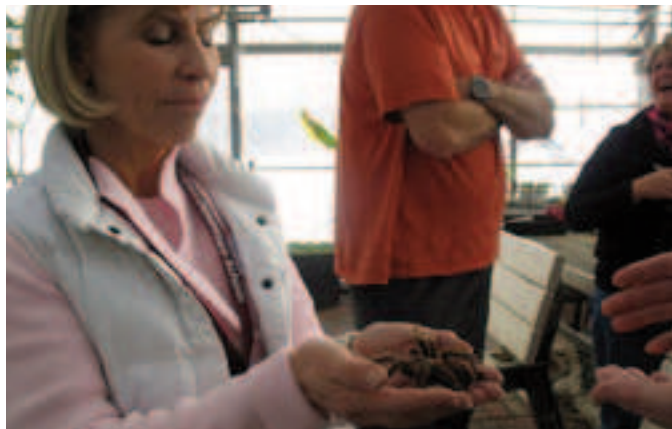


Scott Abbott
Trustee
(1 year)

**Thank you for your
dedicated service to
Blissfield Community
Schools.**

Countywide Professional Development a Huge Success

The staff of Blissfield Community Schools participated in a countywide professional development day on Monday, January 17. Every public school district in the county participated in this day of professional development and idea sharing. While all Blissfield teachers and administrators participated during the day, fourteen of our staff members served as presenters. Topics included bullying, smartboard usage, science integration, and a tour of the B.E.L.L. where teachers got up close and personal with the animals.



Emergency Closings and Delays

If the school must be closed or the opening delayed because of inclement weather or other conditions, the school will notify you via AlertNow Alert System and also on the following radio and television stations:

WABJ - 1490 AM Radio
WQTE - 95.3 FM Radio
WLEN - 103.9 FM Radio

WTVG - 13 ABC Television
WTOL - 11 CBS Television

Blissfield High School Announces DAR Selection for 2010-2011

Melissa Wiles, a senior at Blissfield High School, was selected to represent Blissfield as the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Good Citizen Representative. Melissa won the regional essay contest and has now advanced to the state level competition. She plans on attending a post-secondary institution, and has been accepted to both University of Michigan and Ohio State University, where she is contending for a full ride scholarship. Congratulations Melissa! We wish you the very best.



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