

## *From the Superintendent*



The month of January marked the annual observance of School Board Recognition Month. It is designated as a time to salute the work of our school board members and celebrate public education. The theme, "School Boards LeadStrong," reflects our combined commitment to leadership and accountability assuring that ALL children succeed.

It's an exciting and challenging time in public education. School board members in Blissfield develop policies and make tough decisions that help shape the future of our education system. They bear responsibility for an annual budget in excess of \$10 million, 1,240 students, nearly 200 employees and three school buildings. They are citizens whose decisions affect our children and build our communities.

Our board of education, like hundreds across the state, preserves the core of our democracy-public education. They ensure that decisions on school programming are made by people elected to represent our community's values, culture and circumstances.

Showing appreciation for the important work of school boards should be a year-round process, but too often we neglect to recognize the dedication and hard work of the individuals who represent us. The staff and students of Blissfield Schools ask our community members to take a moment and thank a school board member for their vision and voice in preparing today's students to become tomorrow's leaders. Please join us in celebrating the work of your school trustees by expressing your appreciation for their years of dedicated service to the students of Blissfield Community Schools.

Sincerely,

*Scott D. Moellenberndt*

**A school safety survey has been added to the main page of our website. Please take a moment to click on the link to participate in this brief survey.**

## Blissfield Welcomes New Preschool Program

The Lenawee Great Start Readiness Program joined Blissfield Elementary School offering a full day preschool program for four year olds. This is a state funded program and children must be four years of age by December 1, and must fulfill two of twenty-five risk factors that include health related issues, low birth weight, and developmental concerns. The children are offered a variety of social and academic experiences that include math, language, science, and art as well as routines and expectations that will ready them for kindergarten.



Valorie Veld and Jessica Van Dusen are co-directors of and come to the program with a variety of experiences working with early childhood age children. Valorie comes to Blissfield with a wealth of teaching experience as a kindergarten teacher at St. Joseph Academy Montessori Children's House in Adrian for twelve years. She is a published children's author, and an art instructor at Lenawee's Heart and Soul Children's Music and Art Studio. Jessica is a recent graduate of Central Michigan University, majoring in Special Education, minoring in Child Development. She also child care center experience working with young children at Izzy's Kids Child Care Center in Lake Isabella, Michigan.



Both Valorie and Jessica are excited for the learning experiences the program offers the children. It is a wonderful opportunity to get a head start as the children begin their academic careers. Applications are being accepted for the 2013-2014 school year. Please call 486-2811 for more information, or email [vveld@blissfieldschools.us](mailto:vveld@blissfieldschools.us) or [jvandusen@blissfieldschools.us](mailto:jvandusen@blissfieldschools.us).

## Keyboarding Skills

Blissfield Community Schools recently installed new computer software at each of our three schools to improve the keyboarding skills of students. The Ultrakeys program, promotes learning of proper typing techniques to develop effective, efficient and accurate typists, impact on college readiness, and prepare students to be more successful in the 21st century. UltraKeys will also play a vital role in preparing students for success when taking the Smarter Balanced Assessment beginning in the 2014-15 school year. The Smarter Balanced Assessment will be taking the place of the MEAP test and capitalizes on the precision and efficiency of computer adaptive testing. This computer based testing approach will be taking the place of the more traditional paper and pencil testing methods. This spring, Blissfield 3rd and 4th grade students will have the opportunity to pilot portions of the new assessment.



Students from Mrs. Hojnacki's 5th grade class practice their typing skills in the elementary computer lab under the direction of Mr. Emery.

## Fiesta Internacional

The Spanish II classes at Blissfield High School hosted "La Fiesta Internacional" for students and staff. Students researched and prepared traditional foods from a variety of Spanish speaking countries, sent invitations in Spanish to staff members, and then enjoyed a day of sampling the delicious dishes. Some of the favorites included Coconut Flan, Cocadas, Suspiro Limeño, buñuelos, and tamales. They had a lot of fun getting out of their comfort zones, trying new foods, and even finding their way around the kitchen!



Mia Perez serving buñuelos to Mrs. Linn and Jake Warner.

## Science Olympians Build Bridges

7th Grade Science Olympiad students have been busy building many different structures from soda straw towers to spaghetti bridges. Devices were built out of aluminum foil to see how many golf balls they could hold before sinking. Sailboats made of straws, sticks, paper, and styrofoam were designed and constructed; and then competed against each other. Another recent competition was building bridges across a gap to see which design would hold the most weight. The supplies included popsicle sticks, wooden slints, tooth picks, yarn, tape and glue. The winner of the competition was the bridge built by Tim Maynard and Cade Prime. Their structure held more than five and a half bricks with a total weight of 13.2 kilograms, almost 30 pounds. Hands-on activities like these provide students opportunities to think creatively, plan strategically, and work cooperatively while learning and having fun.



Tim Maynard and Cade Prime carefully balance bricks on their bridge made of athletic tape and popsicle sticks.

## Sports Physicals

As the calendar flips from 2012 to 2013, it is time to begin anticipating sports physicals. For those whose insurance covers annual well checks/physicals, we would like to remind everyone that in order for a sport physical to apply for the upcoming 2013-14 school year, it must be given after April 15, 2013. Therefore, if a student needs a physical to participate in a spring sport, they would need another physical before participating next school year. If at all possible, please delay your physical until after April 15.

## 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 the Connect5 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

## Saving Our Change to Make A Change

Between Thanksgiving and Christmas Recess, the 2nd grade classes along with the 2/3 multiage class, donated their loose coins and dollars to the Adopt A Family program. This year the students did a great job collecting over \$1,000 in cash donations and toys. Adopted children live in Lenawee County and received at least three new outfits, coats, pajamas, socks, underwear and lots of new toys, including some bikes. Due to the generous contributions the 2nd graders received, they were able to adopt 10 kids.

Students in their classrooms had a great time collecting donations, counting it, and then helping decide what types of things to buy. When the teachers returned from their shopping extravaganza with a carload of presents, students got right down to wrapping. It was a great time and experience for all involved!



Owen Reed, Tanner Seiser, and Emily Maran wrap presents for those in need during the holiday season.

## Book Buddies

There's an old Chinese saying, "To read a book for the first time is to make an acquaintance with a new friend; to read it for a second time is to meet an old one." Students in Mrs. Lewis 5th grade class and Mrs. Head's 1st grade class know all about friends and reading. These and many other elementary book buddies regularly get together to share some of their favorite stories.



Book buddies Arthur Mason and Hunter Maran enjoy reading together.

## Spirit Store

The Blissfield Athletic Department has partnered with the on-line spirit wear shop MyLocker to provide fans with an on-line shopping opportunity for Blissfield Spirit Wear. Please go to the school website: [www.blissfieldschools.us](http://www.blissfieldschools.us) and click on high school in the top line. Then click on Athletics in the left column followed by Spirit Items. This will bring you to a list of places where you can find spirit items either locally or on-line.

The on-line store, MyLocker will donate 12% of all sales back to the Blissfield Athletic Department. Find the Royals Shop logo to order on-line products. This store allows you to personalize and customize items with colors, numbers, names, and sports utilizing our Blissfield logo. It is fun to make your own spirit clothing and accessories.

## College Goal Sunday FAFSA Assistance

Parents and students who are interested in getting help completing their FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid Forms) may attend an event at Siena Heights University on Sunday, February 10th from 2:00 - 4:00 pm or for private colleges on Friday, March 22nd from 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. The event will take place at Dominican Hall on the 3rd floor. Students and parents will be assisted with filling out their FAFSA forms. Please bring the following items with you to this meeting:

- Student's FAFSA PIN number (can be assigned by going to [www.fafsa.edu.gov/](http://www.fafsa.edu.gov/) and clicking in the PIN site).
- Student's Social Security Number
- Parent/Guardian's Social Security Number
- Student's Driver's License
- Student's W-2 form or other records of money earned
- Student's 2012 Federal Income Tax Return
- Parent/Guardian's 2012 Federal Income Tax Return
- Spouse's 2012 Federal Income Tax Return (if filing separately)
- Student's untaxed income records
- Student's 2012 bank statements
- 2012 business and investment mortgage information, business and farm records, stock, bond, and other investments.

## New Writing Curriculum

Students at Blissfield Elementary School are enjoying their new Write Steps Language Arts Curriculum. The program was selected after careful review by the K-12 Language Arts Curriculum Committee. It targets teaching the K-5 skills needed to become successful writers. Students have learned to use the Write Steps privacy folders as a helpful tool. While allowing them privacy when writing, it also helps them by giving them frequently misspelled words, proofreading marks, etc. The Write Step correction pens that the students are holding are for self-editing. They allow for students to make corrections on their own papers.



Students in Mrs. Porter's and Miss Shearer's multiage classroom work on Write Steps in their privacy folders.

## Learning Erupts at Blissfield Elementary School

Students in Mrs. Hibdon's third-grade class investigated the power and thrill of erupting volcanos in their science unit study of Earth Surface Changes. Prior to the demonstration, the class learned about the reasons for volcanic eruptions, the types of volcanos, and the inner and outer parts of a volcano. Then, the inner cylinder of models of volcanos was filled with baking soda. Students excitedly poured vinegar into the cylinders, and like magic - the volcano erupted! Nothing compares to a hands-on investigation!



Kaidence Gozdziwski, Owen Clark, Olivia Hanson, and Alayna Fischer watch closely as Nina VanCamp starts the eruption.

## Rebecca Shields Earns All State Band Honors



One of Blissfield's own was recently recognized as one of the finest musicians in the state. BHS sophomore, Rebecca Shields, was selected as the 1st Chair horn player in the MSBOA All-State Band, and performed a concert in Grand Rapids on January 19 as part of the annual Michigan Music Conference. Students in this ensemble rehearsed and performed under the direction of Dr. Kevin Sedatole, Director of

Bands at Michigan State University. The program constituted some of the most challenging and powerful music in the repertoire, and was truly a moving performance. Congratulations, Rebecca, on this supreme accomplishment!

## Website Update

By visiting our website, [www.blissfieldschools.us](http://www.blissfieldschools.us), you can access many of your students' accounts including Meal Magic, Home Access Center and Lunch Deposit. You can also visit district, building, and teacher pages. Please check regularly for updates.

## Michigan Merit Exam

The MME will take place March 5 – 9th in the high school for all eligible juniors and seniors. As a part of the MME juniors will take the ACT, which is a college reportable exam. Other MME tests include the WorkKeys and the Michigan Portion of the Merit Exam. ACT results should be available in mid – late April. All 8th, 9th, and 10th grade students will also be taking the Explore or Plan tests on March 5th. All of these tests are very important and can directly influence college entrance, scholarship eligibility, and future high school scheduling requirements. Students are encouraged to get plenty of rest, eat a healthy breakfast, and put forth their best effort as they prepare to take the tests.

## Scheduling

BHS student scheduling for the 2013-14 school year will take place in late January and early February 2013. Mr. Mark Willson will be visiting the English Classes for grades 8, 9, 10, and 11 to discuss scheduling requirements and options with all students. Student Request Forms will then be taken home and shared with parents. All request forms will need a parent signature before they can be processed in the electronic scheduler, which is then used to assign class periods. Students and parents are reminded to choose classes and alternates carefully. Thanks to the staff, students, and families for putting in the time to select courses that will best meet students' needs. Questions can be directed to the Counseling & Career Center 517 486-2148 x 203 or [mwillson@blissfieldschools.us](mailto:mwillson@blissfieldschools.us).

# The Blissfield Community Schools Department of Fine Arts Proudly Presents



This musical fable of Broadway is based on a story and characters by Damon Runyon, with music and lyrics by Frank Loesser. Set in Damon Runyon's mythical New York City, this oddball romantic comedy - considered by many to be the perfect musical comedy - soars with the spirit of Broadway as it introduces us to a cast of vivid characters who have become legends in the canon: Sarah Brown, played by senior Olivia Miller, the upright but uptight "mission doll," out to reform the evildoers of Time Square; Sky Masterson, featuring senior Robert Powel in his first leading role, the slick, high-rolling gambler who woos her on a bet and ends up falling in love; Adelaide, played by junior Josie Witt, the chronically ill nightclub performer whose condition is brought on by the fact she's been engaged to the same man for 14 years; and Nathan Detroit, portrayed by sophomore Cordell Smith, her devoted fiancé, desperate as always to find a spot for his infamous floating crap game. Rounding out the cast are sophomore Rebecca Shields as the wise but patient cousin Aggie, a trio of comedic gamblers played by Kyle Sell, Charlie Southward, and Andrew Renwand, and a company of over 50 BHS students playing everything from the infamous HOT BOX girls, crap shooters, Chicago gangsters, and everything in between taking us from the heart of Broadway to the cafes of Havana, Cuba, and even into the sewers of New York City. This is a show that people of all ages can enjoy, featuring such favorite songs as *A Bushel and a Peck*, *Luck Be a Lady Tonight*, and *Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat*. Join us on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, March 21st - 23rd at 7PM each evening and 3PM on Saturday, the 23rd. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$6 for students and senior citizens and \$4 for children 5 and under. Saturday Matinee tickets are half price.

## Reminder to all parents:

Applications for free and reduced price meals are available throughout the school year at any of our school offices or online at [www.lunchapplication.com](http://www.lunchapplication.com).

## Scholarships

Many scholarship deadlines are quickly approaching. March 1st is the deadline for a large number of local Lenawee County Education Foundation Scholarships. Scholarship information is available in the CCC. Students and parents can request to be on an electronic scholarship e-mail list by contacting [jnofzinger@blissfieldschools.us](mailto:jnofzinger@blissfieldschools.us). Opportunities are abundant for students willing to put the time and effort into completing applications.

## Voices for Change

Blissfield Middle School, Voices for Change students sponsored "A Chain Reaction of Kindness." project using an idea from a National Program called, Rachel's Challenge. This challenge focuses on ways students can help stop bullying and mean behavior in their communities. The project idea is based upon a quote from, Rachel's Challenge, "I have this theory that if one person will go out of their way to show compassion, then it will start a chain reaction of the same."

Whenever something positive, helpful, or kind was observed, students wrote it down on a strip of paper. The idea was to help all of us see the good in everyone! The grade with the longest "Chain Reaction of Kindness," won a Pajama Day. Congratulations to the 8th grade class who enjoyed wearing their PJ's to school. Together, all three grades had 409 links. Voices for Change is looking forward to repeating this project in the spring!



Students show off their chains of kindness. Back row: Austin Hall, Jack Willson, Tiffany Garno, Makayla Nofzinger, Hallie Frye, Rosalie Holman, Olivia Bockey, Eryn Layman, Jenna Palmer, Taylor Anderson Front row: Jason Klauda, Noah Nieman, Kameryn Cornell, Isabel Cueto, Garrett Brenke, Kendall Duval

## A Flipped Classroom

8th graders in Mrs. Atkinson's class are experiencing a flipped classroom. A flipped classroom is when the students are learning and taking notes at home by watching a video created by the teacher of the lesson and then working on typical homework during class time. The students as well as the teacher are both enjoying this classroom method. Students are able to ask for help on their assignments during class time and can watch the video over if they need more support on the concept. Students say that it's more helpful because it helps them remember the lesson better and they can go back and watch it again later. Also, it gives the students more time to do the work at their own pace and they have more class time to get extra help when necessary.



Having a flipped classroom allows Mrs. Atkinson more time to work with individuals or small groups of students on their math assignments.

## Media Center Face Lift

Special thanks to the Blissfield P.T.O. for their financial support to help fund a recent face-lift of the elementary school media center. Due to their efforts and Prestige Metal Craft all of the metal shelving has been powder coated and had new wheels installed. Walls have also been painted and the carpets steam cleaned with the hopes of replacing the ceiling tiles this summer. You are encouraged to stop by to view our improvements.



## Book Fair Coming to BES

The elementary school is excited about our upcoming Book Fair "Story Laboratory...Reading Gives You Super Powers" on March 4-8, 2013. An amazing selection of books is headed our way! At the book fair, which will be located in the B.E.S. media center, you will find the latest and finest titles for kids, as well as books of interest to parents. Parents, grandparents, and all others interested in reading are encouraged to come and enjoy the book fair with the children. Book fair hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am.-3:00 pm. Friday's hours will be 8:00 am-12:00 pm.

Mark your calendar for our kick-off of the book fair in conjunction with the P.T.O.'s Family Carnival Event on Friday, March 1 from 5:30-7:30 pm where the whole family can join in the fun. Everyone is welcome to stop in and shop. Gift certificates are available for purchase.

You, your family and friends can shop online between February 27 – March 19 by clicking on the link at our website <http://www.blissfieldschools.us/elementaryschool/mediacenter/20112012scholasticbookfair/>. 100% of the profits from the Scholastic Elementary Book Fair are used to purchase new books for the Blissfield Elementary Media Center. Thank you for all of your support!

## Sophomore Tech Center Visit

BHS sophomores visited the LISD Tech Center on Wednesday, December 5, 2012. Students were able to visit 3 courses that they had selected. Many students were excited to see what the Tech Center has to offer. Students then had the opportunity to complete on-line applications from December 10th – January 9th, 2013. Applications for the LISD Tech Center will be electronically processed in a random order at the end of January, however second year tech center students will have the option to enroll in their programs again. Students not getting their desired programs will have another opportunity during a county wide lottery on February 14, 2013. All students will be made aware of their LISD Tech Center status by the end of February 2013.

## iPads Impact on Curriculum

Mrs. Gray's middle school language arts classes kicked off a unit on Literary Genres with a Presi that students used to take notes on the various Genres of Literature. Students then used those notes to create a concept web linking the Genres into 3 main categories: Fiction, Non-Fiction and Both. Students used the Idea Sketch app on the iPads and learned how to create a concept map showing the relationship between genres. It was a great learning experience for Mrs. Gray and her students. They all look forward to using the iPad many more times throughout the year!

Students in Mr. Ford's seventh grade social studies classes took a tour around the world without even setting foot outside the classroom. Thanks to the newly purchased iPads and the app Google Earth, students were able to investigate some of the world's most important, beautiful, and amazing places. Google Earth uses satellite technology to allow students to zoom in and see down to ground level at any place in the world.



Students dressed for 80's day engaged in their iPad learning. Front Row: Amaya Bailey, Hope Galinis, Ashley Miller. Back Row: Chelsea Kilgus, Katelyn Schardt, Brooke Harris, Kelsey Wyman.

## Blissfield High School Graduates Loan Program

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

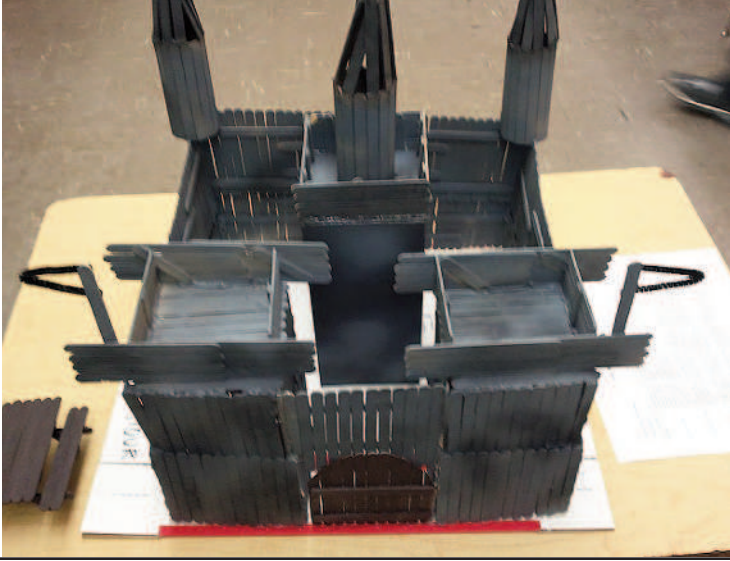
The criteria for the 0% A.P.R. loan are as follows:

1. Your child must graduate from Blissfield Community Schools.
2. Continued advances of \$2000 per college semester will continue as long as your child maintains a minimum grade point average of 2.0 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.

## Social Studies Comes to Life

In an attempt to better understand the Medieval Period, Mr. Phillips' sophomore world history class built castles out of materials they had available at home. Castles were created from popsicle sticks, cardboard, paper towel tubes, styrofoam and even cake! While many different castle styles were presented, the quality of the designs and explanations of the building attributes were fantastic (and delicious in some cases). This was a fun project and a tasty way to bring history to life.



## Blissfield High School Students Donate Blood

The Blissfield High School National Honor Society hosted the annual American Red Cross Blood drive on December 21st. Another successful drive with more than 76 students and staff participating with 56 pints of blood collected. Thank you students and staff for your participation. This is a great way to serve our community. The next Blood Drive will be in May.

The NHS would also like to thank the following local businesses for their generous donations: Lena's, Cake 'N Shakes, McDonald's, Subway, Borchardt's, and the BHS cafeteria. In addition, many teachers and parents donated cookies, snacks, and supplies and we greatly appreciate your involvement. The blood drive would not be possible without this community support.



Laying down on the job, Tori Betz was one of the many Blissfield High School students to take time out of her day to donate blood for those in need.

## Focus on Spanish Culture

Part of the Spanish curriculum is to teach students about leisure activities and about holidays, or celebrations where Spanish is spoken. With that in mind, Mrs. Walter's classes made pinatas with guidance from Mr. Stranges. Students learned about the history of the pinata and were interested to learn that the pinata started in China. Marco Polo discovered the Chinese making them and brought the idea over to Europe. Spain then began using pinatas for Lent. Eventually the custom developed in Mexico. Mexican artists began forming pinatas with paper mache and cardboard into objects from their own tradition. Now in Mexico, pinatas are for fun and are used for birthdays and Las Posadas (re-enactment) of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem.



Blissfield Middle School students show off their creativity while learning about Spanish culture.

## Blissfield Middle School Play

The Middle School Play, directed by Mrs. Dori Eisenmann, will run Thursday, March 14 and Friday, March 15 at 7:00 pm, and Saturday, March 16 at 4:00 pm. Audience members will be treated to a night of two One Act Plays consisting of "A Hill of Magic Beans" and "Law & Order: A Fairy Tale Unit". All tickets will be \$3.00, and go on sale to the general public March 4. Please contact Brenda Kozie-Peak at (419) 509-7754 or email [bkoziep@celestiallibrarian.com](mailto:bkoziep@celestiallibrarian.com) to purchase tickets.

## TIP 411

The Blissfield Police Department and Blissfield Community Schools continue to team up using an Internet based communication tool that allows community residents and students to send anonymous text messages to school and police officials.

The system allowa police and school officials to chat anonymously with students and community members to reduce crime, bullying, vandalism, abuse, weapons and other illegal behavior such as drug abuse or trafficking. The system is completely anonymous.

Tips to law enforcement can be sent by texting the word BPDTIP along with your tip to 847411 (TIP411). Tips to school officials should be labeled BCSTIP and sent to 847411.

## Rainforest Comes Alive at BMS

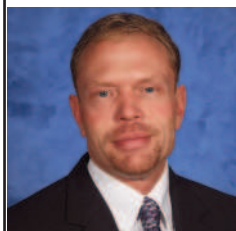
Students in Mr. McVay's 6th grade Social Studies classes studied the Amazon Rainforest with a focus on its land use. Groups of students took on the roles of government officials, ranchers, native amazonians, and environmentalists. After researching the history and perspective of their group, the class held a mock debate to decide on whether to cut down trees, settle the land to reduce overcrowding in large cities, or open the land up for farming. This lesson encouraged students to see other's perspectives, and learn how to respectfully come to agreements with people from all walks of life.



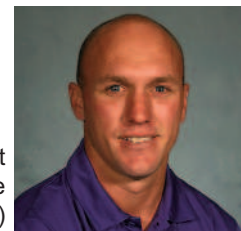
Mr. Andrew Switzer, Siena Heights University, 6th grade intern social studies teacher, discusses debate strategy with left to right Melanie Schoeff, Breann Tripp, Savannah Dulong, Matthew Bischoff, and Kristopher Dunbar.

## Thank You

### Blissfield School Board



Noel Eisenmann  
President  
(7 years)



Scott Abbott  
Trustee  
(3 years)



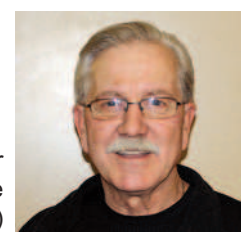
Dave Brewer  
Vice President  
(2 years)



Bob Beckey  
Trustee  
(2 years)



Brian McEwan  
Treasurer  
(5 years)



Bruce Carter  
Trustee  
(1 year)



Vicki Lombard  
Secretary  
(4 years)

## Blissfield Community Schools District Calendar of Upcoming Events

Feb 9	HS District Solo & Ensemble District Wrestling Tournament
Feb 13	Student Count Day
Feb 15	Coming Home
Feb 18	No School - Professional Development Board of Education Meeting
Feb 21	Pre Festival Band Concert
Mar 1	Progress Reports Distributed
Mar 4-8	ES Book Fair
Mar 5	MME Testing Begins
Mar 11-13	Fifth Grade Camp
Mar 12	Kindergarten Round-Up
Mar 14	Winter Athletic Awards Night
Mar 14-16	Middle School Play
Mar 16	District Band Festival
Mar 18	Board of Education Meeting
Mar 21-23	High School Musical
Mar 23	State Solo and Ensemble
Mar 27	5th Grade Wax Museum
Mar 28	3rd Quarter Marking Period Concludes
Mar 30	Report Cards Distributed
Mar 29- Apr 5	Spring Recess
Apr 8	School Resumes
Apr 11	No School K-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences
Apr 12	No School - Good Friday
Apr 15	Board of Education Meeting

Please note that beginning in February 2013 Blissfield School Board Meetings will begin at 7:00 pm in the high school cafetorium.

THE BLISSFIELD

**COMMUNICATOR**