



THE BLISSFIELD COMMUNICATOR

Fall 2006 Issue

A Publication of Blissfield Community Schools

From the Superintendent

On the first day of school, Blissfield Schools welcomed 1336 eager students and 100 plus enthusiastic well trained teaching and support staff. This is important as we are about to begin a new school year to reflect upon our fine school system and its many successes. All three buildings made AYP, Average Yearly Progress which is part of the federal and state grading system. Both high school and middle school received a grade of "B", which is excellent, and our elementary school received a grade of "A" which is outstanding with few schools receiving such high grades. All three teaching staffs are to be congratulated for the hard work and commitment to our students, along with our outstanding principals for their direction, guidance, and fortitude.

Staff in two of our three buildings were re-certified on August 29, 2006, in CPR training, the use of our Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and administering first aid to a choking victim. The Blissfield Fire Department, under the direction of Rodney Lippens, trained the elementary staff, and an organization from Ann Arbor, Dummies on the Run, directed by Jerry Buffman, trained the high school staff. Both worked under the guidelines of the American Heart Association. The middle school will be trained shortly due to the fact that we could not schedule enough trainers for all three buildings on that day.

On August 22, the Athletic Department hosted a "Grand Re-Opening" dedication ceremony for the newly renovated football stadium which also included the fall sports "Meet the Team Night." People toured the press box, restrooms, and the team room. It was a great turnout for the evening which also featured the band and the new band director, Melissa Elsholz, refreshments by the Athletic Boosters, athletic clothing for sale, and membership invitations for the Boosters. With the completion of the football stadium, the entire outdoor facilities are now the finest in all of southern Michigan. The Blissfield community and Blissfield Schools can both be very proud that we have the best facilities for our student athletes. Although everything dealing with the facilities was either needed, was formerly non-existent, or posed a safety concern, there has been some criticism that the same attention was not given to academics or the school buildings. This is absolutely untrue. While the facilities were being planned or worked on, academics and school buildings were also getting attention. Examples of this include over \$250,000 for textbooks, 90 new computers for the district computer laboratories, 23 new Smart boards throughout the district, financing the training and the textbooks for an additional three AP classes in the high school, electrical upgrades to the high school and elementary school, flooring replacement in the high school and elementary cafeterias, new carpeting in libraries and classrooms, along with painting, furniture, and new safety doors for all buildings.

Blissfield Schools has adopted the philosophy and supported the tradition of "life long learning." The collaboration of our schools with staff, parents, volunteers, community members, and our village has provided an excellent opportunity for our children. It is the reason for our success providing resources to do these things that make learning possible and our top priority.

Yours in Education,
Paul Palka

Thank you from the Transportation Department



The Transportation Department would like to thank the parents and students of Blissfield Community Schools for their cooperation during the first few weeks of school as details regarding routes and stops were fine-tuned. To help ensure that your student(s) are picked up and dropped off at the appropriate locations, it is critical that each year parents file a transportation request form prior to the beginning of school. These forms provide current home addresses and emergency phone numbers. If you have not submitted one as of yet, these forms can be picked up in your student's building office. Also, at this time, we are not issuing any guest bus passes for students to ride home on buses they are not assigned to.



R.E.A.D. for a "Pawsitive" Experience

Blissfield Elementary School will soon have a frequent guest roaming the halls: a dog named General Eisenhower. General Eisenhower is a Therapaw dog that is in training to make reading a positive experience for today's youth. John Abbott has volunteered his service one hour a week to bring General Eisenhower into the building for students to read with him. The program is part of the R.E.A.D. Program that has helped children discover the joys of reading while helping to improve their reading skills. Participants will receive a personalized, stamped paw print from General Eisenhower along with a bookmark. For more information about the R.E.A.D. Program, go to <http://www.therapaws.org>.



Included in the picture are Jessica Roberts, a fourth grader, John Abbott, and General Eisenhower.



Our Food Service Department is ready to feed our students for the 2006-2007 school year with breakfast and lunch served daily in all buildings. Elementary students receive a monthly menu at the beginning of each month showing a daily menu for breakfast and lunch. Menus are also

available on the district web site at <http://blissfield.k12.mi.us>

Prices for this year are:

Breakfast \$1.25 per meal in all buildings

Elementary lunch is \$1.75 per meal

Middle and High school lunch is \$2.00 for regular lunch and \$2.25 for specialty bars

Milk if sold separately from the meals is \$.40

Adult meals are \$2.50

The district's cash register system is working great. Parents may go online to register to make a deposit into one or more district accounts at www.LunchDeposit.com. Parents will need their child's school identification number. Please note that there is a small fee when money is deposited into a student's account. The fee for this service is a charge by Meal Magic software and is not money collected for Blissfield Schools.

Parents and/or guardians who think their child may qualify for a free or reduced meal, must complete a family application and return it to any of the school offices. You can fill out this application on line at www.LunchApp.com at no charge, and you will be notified by mail if your child qualifies for free or reduced price meals. For more information, contact Charleen Horkey, Food Service, at 486.2148, ext. 222.

IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS...

For new families and those presently in the district, the following may be helpful. What to do if you have a problem? Take your concern to the person closest to the problem. In athletics situations, go first to the coach, then the athletic director, then the principal and then the superintendent. In school settings, first talk with the teacher, then the principal, and then the superintendent. For transportation concerns, see the bus driver first, then the transportation supervisor, then the administrative assistant, then the superintendent. The following phone numbers will help you contact the appropriate individuals.

Dee Crane	Elementary Principal	486-2811
Mark Willson	Middle School Principal	486-4420
Jerry Johnson	High School Principal	486-2148
Cris Rupp	H.S. Admin. Assistant	486-2148 (205)
Cris Rupp	Transportation	486-2148 (205)
Steve Babbitt	Athletic Director	486-4725
Paul Palka	Superintendent	486-2205

If your concern is still not resolved, contact a member of the school board.

Communication is essential for peak functioning of any school. The administration and staff work hard at communicating and keeping parents informed. We will strive to continue to do that. Please feel free to share your thoughts with us as the school partners with parents to make each child the very best.

NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS REGARDING STUDENT RECORDS

In compliance with Federal regulations, the Blissfield Community Schools district has established the following guidelines concerning student records.

Each student's record will be kept in a confidential file located at the student's school office. The information in a student's record file will be available for review only by the parents or legal guardian of a student, adult student, (18 years or older) and those authorized by Federal law and District regulations. A parent or adult student has the right to:

- Inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after receipt of the request. The school has a form which can be used to submit a request. The Custodian of Records will notify the parent or adult student of the time and place where the records can be inspected

- Request amendments if the parent or adult student believes the record is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's rights. The school has a form which may be used to identify which information in the record the parent or adult student believes is inaccurate or misleading and to specify why it is inaccurate or misleading

- Consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to those disclosures allowed by the law. The school's administrative guidelines describe those exceptions and is available upon request

- Challenge District noncompliance with a parent's request to amend the records through a hearing. If the Custodian of Records decides not to amend the record, the parent or adult student will be so notified and provided the oppor-

tunity for a hearing. Additional information concerning the hearing will be provided when notified of the opportunity for a hearing

- File a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Ave., Washington, D.C., 20202

- Obtain a copy of the District's policy and administrative guideline on student records.

The District has established the following information about each student as "directory information." Each year the District will provide public notice to students and their parents of its intent to make available, upon request, certain information known as "directory information." The Board designates as student

"directory information" a student's name, address, telephone number, name and place of birth, photograph, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, height and weight, if a member of an athletic team, dates of attendance, date of graduation, awards received, honor roll, scholarships, or telephone numbers only for inclusion in school or PTO directories. The District will make this information available upon a legitimate request unless a parent, guardian, or adult student notifies the school in writing within ten (10) days from the date of this notification that he/she will not permit distribution of any or all such information.

SPORTS SCHEDULES ONLINE

Community members are welcome to look online for all of the athletic contests scheduled for Blissfield Schools. Go to the Blissfield home page at <http://scnc.blissfield.k12.mi.us> and click on the black bar "HighSchoolSports.net" at the bottom of the page.

All of the various sports can be accessed with scheduling information.

Ticket prices for all athletic events this year are as follows: All Varsity sports - \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students; All Junior Varsity and Freshmen sports - \$4.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students. Tickets for middle school athletic events are \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students. Season Sports Passes are available in the high school athletic office.

Senior citizens 62 years and older are admitted free to all athletic contests.



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

School Board Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of every month. Meetings are held in the high school library. Changes in meeting times and places are announced at the school board meetings and are posted at the high school near the superintendent's office. The following are the meeting dates for the upcoming 2006-2007 school year:

October 9, 2006
November 13, 2006
December 11, 2006
January 8, 2007
February 12, 2007
March 12, 2007
April 9, 2007
May 14, 2007
June 11, 2007
July 9, 2007
August 13, 2007

School board meetings are reported in the Advance and the minutes are posted in *The Communicator* published by Blissfield Community Schools and mailed to district households.

Special Education Act

Public Act 198 of 1971, the mandatory Special Education Act, establishes the right to handicapped person(s) from birth through the age of 25, to equal opportunity within the public schools. **THIS MEANS THAT HANDICAPPED CHILDREN DO NOT NEED TO WAIT UNTIL THEY ARE SCHOOL AGE TO BENEFIT FROM SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES.** It is important that help be obtained for the handicapped at the earliest possible age. In the State of Michigan, this help is free and is available through your public schools. A team of educational specialists evaluates the child to determine the type and degree of disability and the best kind of program placement. This evaluation often includes medical specialists. Pre-primary Special Education services are available for :

**Emotionally Impaired
Mentally Impaired
Physically & Otherwise Health Impaired (POHI)
Hearing Impaired
Visually Impaired
Speech and Language Impaired
Specific Learning Disabled**

If you know a preschool child who may benefit from these services, contact:

**Mrs. Dee Crane
Elementary School Principal
Blissfield Community Schools
640 S. Lane St., Blissfield, MI 49228
486-2811**

Notification of Asbestos Reinspection

The Environmental Protection Agency requires us to perform reinspection of asbestos materials every three years. The buildings of the Blissfield Community Schools were inspected and a three-year management plan was compiled on July 6, 2004. At that time, a six-month inspection was also completed. We currently have no change in our ACM and we will continue to manage them in place. The results of the reinspection are on file in the school's administrative office.

Notice of Nondiscrimination Policy

It is the policy of the Blissfield Community Schools that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any program or activity or in employment. Any questions concerning the Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, should be directed to:

**Ms. Donna Bunde, Middle School Counselor
Blissfield Community Schools
1305 Beamer Rd.
Blissfield, MI 49228
486-4420**

Inquiries related to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap, should be directed to Mr. Jerry Johnson at Blissfield Middle School, Section 504 Coordinator.

Grievance Procedures For: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 – Section 1

Any person believing that the Blissfield Community School district or any part of the school organization has inadequately applied the principles and/or regulations of (10) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, (23) Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, and (3) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, he/she may bring forward a complaint, which shall be referred to as a grievance, to the local Civil Rights Coordinator at the following address:

**Ms. Donna Bunde
Blissfield Middle School
1305 Beamer Rd.
Blissfield, MI 49228
486-4420**

Advisory to all parents...

In accordance with Federal Law, the Board of Education prohibits the use, possession, concealment, or distribution of drugs by students on school grounds, in school, or school-approved vehicles, or at any school-related event. Drugs include any alcoholic beverage, anabolic steroid, dangerous controlled substance as defined by State statute, or substance that could be considered a "look-a-like" controlled substance. Compliance with this policy is mandatory for all students. Any students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, in accordance with due process and as specified in the student handbooks, up to and including expulsion from school. When required by State law, the District will also notify law enforcement officials.

The District is concerned about any student who is a victim of alcohol or drug abuse and will facilitate the process by which he/she receives help through programs and services available in the community. Students and their parents should contact the school principal or counseling office whenever such help is needed.

SCHOOL VIOLENCE HOTLINE 1-800-815-TIPS

The School Violence Hotline provides a means for students to anonymously report specific threats of imminent school violence or suspicious or criminal conduct. The toll-free hotline number is operational 24 hours each day by the Michigan State Police. A trained officer will document the problem and report it to the appropriate individuals immediately.

ANY SITUATIONS WITH IMMINENT HARM INVOLVED SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE 911 EMERGENCY NUMBER.

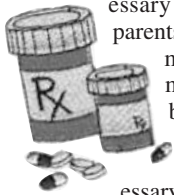
Emergency Closings & Delays

If the school must be closed or the opening delayed because of inclement weather or other conditions, the school will notify the following radio and television stations: WLEN, 103.9 FM; WQTE, 95.3 FM; WABJ, 1490 AM; WTVG, Ch.13; WTOL, Ch.11. For weather related reasons of fog, snow, or ice, a 2-hour delay will be announced. When classes and buses are delayed for two hours, there will be no morning kindergarten. The morning Vo-Tech bus will leave at 9:45. If conditions do not improve, the 2-hour delay may be changed to a closing. Please do not call the school to find out if school is canceled, but stay tuned to the appropriate radio and television stations. The announcement will be aired before 6:15 a.m. If, for adverse weather conditions, students are sent home from school early, this will also be announced on the radio. The decision on whether to hold school or not on an inclement weather day is difficult to make, and said decisions are made jointly by the Transportation Supervisor and the school administration.



What you must do if your child needs medication at school...

Written permission from the parent/guardian and from the physician is required before school personnel may administer medication. The necessary form is available at each school office for parents/guardians/physicians to fill out. The form states the medication that is required, the exact dosage of the medication, and the time and dates medication should be taken. All medication is stored and given to the child from the office. No medication, including aspirin, will be given to any student without the necessary form. Michigan law requires that a new form be filled out each school year. If you have questions, please contact the office of the school that your child attends.



Attendance Procedures for Blissfield Schools

REPORTING AN ABSENCE

Please call the appropriate school office as soon as possible if your child will not be in attendance on a particular day. If you need to call before office hours, please leave a voice mail message stating the student's name, grade, and the reason for not attending school.

ARRIVING LATE OR LEAVING EARLY

If your child arrives to school late, please go to the building office and sign in. If your child needs to leave school early, please call before school or send a note with your child stating the time your child needs to be excused and the reason why your child will be leaving early. All students must sign out in the office before leaving school.

Performing Arts Center update:

The Performing Arts Committee toured four different auditoriums during the summer. These included Manchester High School, Pinckney High School, Walled Lake Central, and Monroe Community College. The purpose of the tours was to gather information and ideas that might be incorporated into an auditorium for the Blissfield Community.

A vision planning meeting that will be open to the public will be scheduled in the near future. If you wish to be notified of this meeting, or would like more information about the Performing Arts Committee, please contact one of the co-chairs: Kerwin Leader at 486-2678 or Judy Laberdee at 447-3322, or send email to: info@BlissfieldArtsCenter.org

All weather track use

The community is welcome to come and exercise on the new all weather track. However, please note that it is designed for walking, running, and jogging. In order to get the maximum service from the track and to preserve its surface, we are asking that no bikes, strollers, golf clubs, wagons, skateboards, remote control toys, or objects with wheels be used on the track. Also, please do not walk animals on the track. Again, we would like the community to feel free to exercise by walking, jogging, or running on the new track. We appreciate your understanding in this matter.

SCHOOL SAFETY BULLETIN

Your child's safety is a top priority. School officials, the Lenawee County Sheriff's Department, and the Lenawee County Emergency Services Coordinator have reviewed safety plans should a Threat Level Red be declared by the United States Department of Homeland Security. Should a Threat Level Red be announced:

- Before school hours: Schools will be CLOSED. All activities and events scheduled for any district facility will be canceled until further notice. Normal school operations will remain closed until authorized to re-open by the Lenawee County Emergency Services Coordinator and the Lenawee County Sheriff's Department.

- During school hours: School buildings will be secured and remain open until regular dismissal time unless otherwise directed by the Lenawee County Emergency Services Coordinator. All after-school activities and events will be canceled.

How can you help? 1) Advise your child's school if there are any recent changes to your child's emergency medical information. 2) In order to keep phone lines open for possible communications, we ask for your cooperation in not calling the schools. We will be using local media to update information as it becomes available. We thank you for your cooperation as we take these steps on behalf of our children and our staff.

(Submitted by Lenawee County Superintendents)
Richard Naughton: Addison Schools
Del Cochran: Adrian Schools
Paul Palka: Blissfield Schools
Robert Tebo: Britton-Macon Schools
Dave Pray: Clinton Schools
Larry Shilling: Deerfield Schools
Kathy Malnar: Hudson Schools
Jim Hartley: Madison Schools
Kyle Griffith: Morenci Schools
Max Baxter: Onsted Schools
John Hackett: Sand Creek Schools
Mike McArane: Tecumseh Schools
Steve Krusich: LISD

ALL PROJECTS MUST ADHERE TO THE PUBLIC ACT AND SCHOOL BOARD POLICY

On December 23, 2002, Public Act 628 of 2002 was signed into law. This law amends the School Building Act, Public Act 306 of 1937 by requiring the inspection of all school construction projects, including outbuildings such as storage buildings, bus garages, athletic facilities, and that they are in compliance with the Stillie-DeRossett-Hale Single State Construction Code Act and the Fire Prevention Code, Public Act 207 of 1941. School projects

which are being constructed, remodeled, or reconstructed are subject to inspections and plan review by the Michigan Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety.

Therefore, **ALL PROJECTS INVOLVING BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS MUST FIRST BE FULLY APPROVED BEFORE ANY WORK IS DONE.** This includes, but is not limited, to the following: new construction, alterations of existing buildings on

grounds, moving soil, locating fields, etc. Each specific request must be submitted in writing to the Director of Facilities and Maintenance on a Buildings/Grounds Alteration Request Form. The request must be accompanied by permits, applications, specifications, and any other information important to the project.

Coaches, club sponsors, class mentors, department heads, educational staff, outside organizations,

and service groups would all need to fill out the Buildings/Grounds Alteration Request Form. These forms may be picked up at the office of the Facilities and Maintenance Supervisor located in the Elementary Building, 640 S. Lane Street, Blissfield, Michigan, 49228. Completed forms must be submitted to Mr. Thomas Kasefang, Director of Facilities and Maintenance.

Communities In Schools News

Cool School got off to a great start again this summer. Fifteen students enjoyed learning about sculpturing in Camp Traveling Tree during the week of June 12th. Cool School was open to any fourth or fifth grad-



er. Our own Ms Nicole LaJiness volunteered to teach the half-day classes with Mrs. Sandy Porter volunteering to assist the students. The students made plaster masks of their own faces, paper masks using

the plaster cast mold, and a huge newspaper pyramid that was built outside. The last sculpture of the week was created from a piece of waxy like substance where the students added objects that were meaningful to them. This final relief sculpture was graciously provided by Ken Thompson at Flatlanders Sculpture Supply and Gallery. He volunteered to help our students make aluminum sculptures. He took the relief sculptures the students created and prepared a negative cast of each sculpture. In July the students visited Flatlanders and were given a tour. Ken poured aluminum into the casts while the students watched. After a short time the students donned heavy jackets and gloves to knock the hot cast material off to get to their sculpture. It was fun to watch the students do this. Each sculpture was later bolted onto a metal tree that Ken's crew made. The tree may be seen at D and N Upholstery where Dave Bailey generously volunteered to display it first. It will move about Blissfield during the year and permanently end up at the elementary school.



ADVISORY TO ALL PARENTS

As a part of the Blissfield Community Schools district pest management program, it is our goal to reduce pesticides as much as possible. While it may be necessary to apply a pesticide, our program does not rely on routine pesticide application. You have the right to be informed prior to any pesticide application made to the school buildings and grounds during the school year. In certain emergencies, (example: bees nest) pesticides may be applied without prior notice; however you will be notified following any such application. You will receive advance notice of the application of a pesticide, other than bait or gel at your child's school. This advance notice of the application will be given 48 hours before the application. The Blissfield Community Schools will post at all Entrances and the common areas located adjacent to the building office and on our school web page. Parents are also entitled to receive this notice by first-class United States mail postmarked at least 3 days before the application. If you would like to be notified by mail please fill out the form below and return to the Facilities Department attention to:

Tom Kasefang
630 South Lane
Blissfield, MI 49228

PESTICIDE APPLICATION NOTIFICATION

Parent/Guardian _____

Street Address _____

City _____

Zip Code _____

Telephone: _____

**ANY QUESTION OR CONCERNS, PLEASE CONTACT:
TOM KASEFANG AT 486-2811 EXT. 3203**

BLISSFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MEAP Testing coming soon!

Mark your calendars now for these important dates of October 9-27 when MEAP testing will take place in the classrooms of third, fourth, and fifth grade students. Parents, please help us achieve success for your child by reminding your student to:

- Get plenty of rest.
- Eat a good breakfast!
- Read directions carefully!
- ALWAYS CHECK YOUR ANSWER SHEET
- ...are you on the right number ...did you fill in the bubble neatly?
- DO YOUR BEST!!!

We appreciate your support during this important test taking time.

CPR Training

During in-service time on August 30, all teachers and staff were trained, tested and certified in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR.) Correct usage of our Automated External Defibrillator was demonstrated along with first aid and response to choking victims. Rodney Lippens from the Blissfield Fire Department was the trainer. Pictured is Robin Hibdon, elementary teacher, practicing proper breathing techniques on the "dummy."



Safety Issues

Cooperation of parents is needed at arrival and dismissal times to alleviate congestion in the circle drive and to insure the safety of our students. Please note in the morning the circle drive will be blocked off and traffic directed to the north end of the building where students can be dropped off. For parents picking up students at the end of the day, please wait for your children in the north parking lot or outside on any of the sidewalks.

Also, please note that all outside doors are locked except for the front doors. Everyone visiting must use the front entrance to enter the building. No visitors, including parents, should enter the building through entrances other than the front doors. Please sign in at the office and obtain an identification badge. We appreciate your cooperation.

WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2019



Welcome to the new kindergarten school year in Mrs. Mueller's classroom! We are off and running. Mrs. Mueller is very impressed at how quickly the new kindergarten students have adapted to the structure and routine of school. We have set our classroom rules and have begun the responsibility of classroom jobs. Our first science unit on our five senses

ELEMENTARY CALENDAR

Oct. 9-27.....	MEAP Testing, Grades 3, 4, 5
Oct. 9.....	Frankenmuth Fundraiser products arrive
Oct. 12.....	5th Grade Band Instrument Fitting; 5th Grade Band Parent Meeting; PTO Meeting 6 p.m.
Oct. 18.....	Class dismisses at 11 a.m.; AM Kindergarten meets as usual; no PM Kindergarten
Oct. 23.....	4th Grade Field Trip to the Capitol
Oct. 26-27.....	1st Grade Field Trip to Stubnitz Environmental Center
Oct. 27.....	Kindergarten All-Day Field Trip to Toledo Zoo
Nov. 1.....	Rotary visits 3rd Grade
Nov. 3.....	Heritage Day Celebration
Nov. 3.....	End of 1st Marking Period - 44 Days
Nov. 9.....	PTO Meeting 6 p.m.
Nov. 13.....	Paul McCormack visits 3rd Grade
Nov. 15-17.....	Parent-Teacher Conferences; K-5 classes altered
Nov. 17.....	Fundraiser prize assembly; Grades 3-5
Nov. 23-24.....	Thanksgiving Holiday - No School

Open House a success!

The annual Blissfield Elementary Open House took place on Thursday, September 7 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. The evening was a wonderful opportunity to meet teachers and staff members as well as a time to become familiar with the school activities and programming. Families, friends, and community members were welcomed as many local organizations displayed information and registration forms for elementary student participation. Ice cream was provided by the Blissfield PTO as a delicious ending to a great evening.

5th Grade Band News

Two dates concerning fifth grade band should be marked on parents' calendars. On October 6 there will be a listening test given in class for the students. On October 12, during the day there will be an instrument fitting which will take place. That same day, later in the evening, there will be a meeting for parents. Watch for a handout coming home to give you the time of the meeting. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Elholz at 486-2148, ext. 220.



is underway and we are starting handwriting with proper formation of the letters of the alphabet. In math, we are having great fun working with our math manipulatives and doing some touch counting and graphing. Our school year is underway and we are doing awesome!

BLISSFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL CALENDAR

Oct. 9.....	Progress reports are due
Oct. 13.....	Progress reports sent home with students
Oct. 18.....	Parent/Teacher Conferences Students dismissed at 10:55 a.m. Conferences 12-3 p.m. and 5-8 p.m.
Nov. 10.....	Report cards mailed home
Nov. 17.....	Students dismissed at 10:55 a.m.; Teacher in-service day
Nov. 23-24.....	Thanksgiving Break - No school

“Life is Good” pizza party

The Blissfield Middle School will host a pizza party for each grade level in the middle school. Students will have the opportunity to eat pizza with their peers and view “Life is Good” catalogs, where they will also have the opportunity to order “Life is Good” apparel. The cost for attending the party will be two dollars per person to cover the cost of pizza. Any extra money raised will be donated to Carrie Atkinson’s Design Class, and will be used to buy school supplies for the county wide school supply drive.



DRIVE Program in full swing!

The DRIVE (Developing Responsibility Is Vitaly Essential) Program is underway and helping students to achieve success. The early preview of DRIVE shows students attending an academic lunch if they do not complete their assignments. Upon their fourth academic lunch, students will be enrolled into the after school segment of the DRIVE Program. Students involved in the after school segment of the program will stay after school until 4 p.m. everyday that their assignments are not completed. DRIVE strives to provide incentive for students to complete their work and make extra help available for students who need it.

Siena Heights and BMS work together for student success

Siena Heights University undergraduate education students will be working with the teachers and students of the Blissfield Middle School to both gain one hundred hours of field experience and assist the teachers and students in the middle school. Each undergraduate education student at Siena Heights will be spending approximately nine hours a week at the Blissfield Middle School helping students achieve success. Siena Heights’ Students can expect to gain valuable experience while helping the teachers and students of the middle school.

Get in the middle of it all!

The Middle School has a great program for anyone who wants to volunteer some of their time to help students. The BMS Mentoring Program is starting the tenth year of operation and has had much success in making a difference in the lives of many students. A mentoring relationship with a student offers help in time management and organizational skills, setting personal and academic goals and cultivating a

positive outlook on life. This can often build self-confidence and encourage a student, helping them to develop better skills in school and in life. The personal benefits of being a mentor are feelings of satisfaction in contributing to the community and pride in helping a young person learn and focus on goals. A mentor meets one day a week, Monday or Friday, from 2:45 – 3:45 pm. The materials are provided and there is an

Students honored with Awesome Attitude of the Week Award

Each week the three grade level teams, 6th grade, 7th grade, and 8th grade, will select a student from each grade level to receive the Awesome Attitude of the Week Award. The award supports one of three middle school goals set by the middle school staff this year, “All Blissfield Middle School Students will understand the importance and power associated with a positive attitude.” Recipients of the award will receive acknowledgement and privileges for the following week, including being the first student to enter the lunch line every day, and the opportunity to receive a book gift certificate and free movie pass from a local theater.

Principal to sleep on roof

Mark Willson, the Principal of the Blissfield Middle School, has agreed to sleep on the roof of the Blissfield Middle School providing students achieve the MEAP test goals, as set by Mrs. Donna Bunde, the MEAP test coordinator. The MEAP test will be given to the middle school students beginning the second week of October. To underscore its importance, Mrs. Bunde has set several goals for students to work toward. They include: A 90% rate of attendance for all students during the testing time period, a great attitude, as determined by the staff, for each testing session, and improvement, in every area, over last year’s scores. Willson has agreed to sleep on the roof this fall, provided the students achieve the first two goals, and again in the spring if the students achieve the third goal.

MEAP Testing in the Middle School

All students at BMS will be taking the MEAP test October 9-19. The English Language Arts and Math tests will be given at all three grade levels. Sixth grade students will also take the Social Studies test, and the eighth grade students will take the Science test. Parents, please make sure that your child gets plenty of rest and starts the day with a good breakfast. Letters will be sent home the week of October 2 to give more information.

Broken Yoke coming to Blissfield

Broken Yoke, a contemporary Christian band, will be holding an assembly at the Blissfield Middle School on November 8. The focus of the gathering will be on students and making good choices during a tumultuous time in their lives. A concert will take place at the Blissfield Elementary School that evening from 6:00 p.m to 8:00 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public.

on-site coordinator to help you and your student make the most of your time together. If you are a caring adult, you can be part of a team of select individuals who touch the lives of our students. You can call the middle school at 486-4420 ext. 226 and you will be contacted by Lora Stutzman, program coordinator.

BLISSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

Oct. 9.....	9th Grade Social Studies Testing; School Board Meeting 7:30; Variety Show 7 p.m.
Oct. 18.....	Parent-Teacher Conferences 12-3 p.m.; 5-8 p.m.
Oct. 23-27.....	MEAP Retesting
Nov. 2-3.....	All School Play "Ask Any Girl"
Nov. 3.....	End of 1st Quarter
Nov. 13.....	School Board Meeting
Nov. 17.....	1/2 day in-service for staff
NOV. 23-24.....	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 7.....	Holiday Music Concert

Public Speaking Debates

Mrs. Roesch's Public Speaking class will be taking part in the Lenawee County debate scrimmages this fall. The debates will take place at the Grace Free Evangelical Church on North M-52 in Adrian. The dates for the scrimmages are October 10, 24, November 21, and the tournament on December 5. The students will be involved in at least two debates per competition. There will be 27 students participating this year in this opportunity which will encourage research skills, as well as allow them to practice their speaking skills with other students in the county.

Blissfield Senior receives high honor and hopes to tour Europe

Sherry Brusseau, a senior at BHS, loves music and plays flute and piccolo in the BHS band. She has participated with the band program for approximately eight years. She received a Division I on the piccolo and a Division II on the flute in her junior year at the State Solo and Ensemble performance. She plans to attend college after graduation and major in secondary education and minor in music.

All of her hard work and dedication has paid off. Sherry had the opportunity to audition and then earned scholarships for both flute and piccolo to attend the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp this past summer. During this camp, she auditioned for the International Wind Ensemble and was chosen to tour with the Ensemble throughout Europe during the summer of 2007. She is the first musician from Blissfield to be honored with such a privilege.



However, this honor does not come without some additional hard work. In order to go to Europe with the Ensemble, she must raise \$4,800 by March, 2007. She has started a fundraising campaign by sending letters to local businesses and residents asking for donations in order to fulfill her dream of representing Blissfield in Europe. If you would like to assist Sherry with this opportunity, please send a donation or a check payable to Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp to Blissfield Band Boosters, c/o Blissfield High School.

Welcome Mrs. Elsholz!



Blissfield Schools is pleased to welcome Mrs. Melissa Elsholz to the district. She will be working in all three buildings, serving as the band teacher. A graduate of Western Michigan University, she presently is teaching the high school and middle school band students with an emphasis on the marching band during football season following band camp late this summer. In October, she will begin working with the elementary students in a beginning band program. Mrs. Elsholz comes to Blissfield from Edinburg, Indiana, where she taught for two years, and she also taught for four years in Dundee, Michigan. She currently lives in the Ann Arbor area and says that she is very pleased to be working in a small town with a great group of students and supportive parents.

VARIETY SHOW WILL ENTERTAIN!

This year's annual Variety Show promises to be a treat for all who attend. It will be held in the h.s. cafeteria on Monday, October 9th at 7:00. Many performers will be featured, including comedy sketches, as well as the usual singing and dancing acts. Our talented Blissfield students will perform, once again, along with Principal Jerry Johnson, Band director, Melissa Elsholz, and Choir director, Sandra Kellogg. The community is invited to come out and enjoy the evening's fun.

All-School play

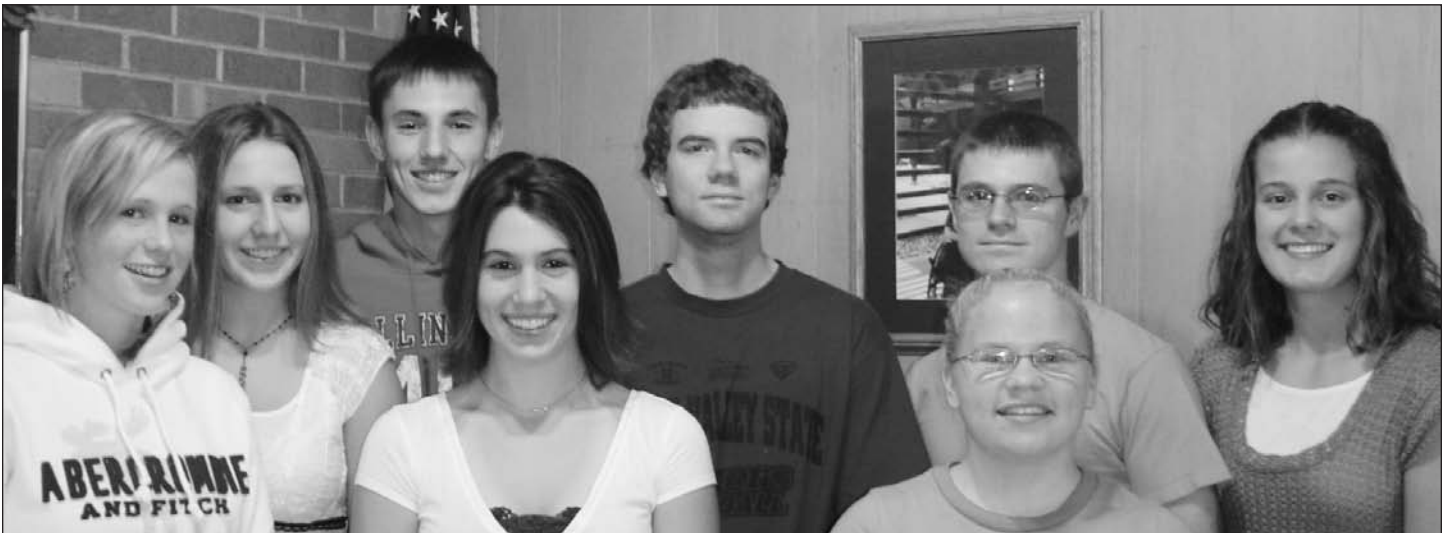
"Ask Any Girl" is this year's play to be presented on Thursday and Friday, November 2 and November 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. This comedy starred Shirley MacLaine and David Niven in the original performance and is an amusing account of young women entering the work force mainly to find husbands. It was originally set in the 1950's but will be updated to a contemporary setting for our performance. Tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students.



NCAA Clearinghouse Information

All students interested in participating in division I or division II athletics in college should align their classes according to the guidelines set up by the NCAA. All seniors interested in participating in division I or II college athletics should register with the NCAA Clearinghouse as early as possible during their senior year. See Mr. Johnson, the NCAA Liaison, if you have any questions.





Congratulations Junior Rotarians

The following seniors were recently honored as they were chosen to represent Blissfield High School as the Junior Rotarians for the 2006-2007 school year. Congratulations to these students (as pictured) Kelsey

Rose, Erica Devantier, Brent Eisenmann, Danielle Goetz, Jake Graf, Brandan Walters, Ashley Waterbury, and Callie Slomski.

Important Checklist for Juniors & Seniors

SENIOR CHECK LIST

FALL

- Pre-arrange college visits and begin the application process. Attend college night and visit with the college admissions representatives who visit the CCC during VIP.
- Register and take the ACT or SAT exam (depending on the college's entrance requirements...both forms can be found in the CCC or on-line)
- Complete college applications as soon as possible during early fall. Return completed application, along with your check or money order, to the CCC and we will send them to their respective colleges.
- Review your credit status and EDP (educational development plan) with Mrs. Bausman.
- Register with the NCAA Clearinghouse if you plan on participating in college athletics. Make sure you have met their eligibility requirements.
- Pick up your college financial aid forms in the CCC during the month of November/December.
- Check out the scholarship file and CCC web page to identify and apply for scholarships.
- Continue to job shadow and explore post-secondary experiences.

WINTER

- Continue to search for college scholarships using the CCC web page and scholarship file.
- Send in your FASFA (federal financial aid form) by the due date printed on the form.
- Continue to job shadow and explore your post-secondary experiences.

SPRING

- Continue to apply for scholarships. A significant deadline for many scholarships is March 31, 2007.
- Receive confirmation on your acceptance into a post-secondary institution.
- Explore and decide on the next step in your post-secondary experience.
- Graduate from Blissfield High School.

JUNIOR CHECK LIST

FALL

- Review EDP and discuss credit status with counselor.
- Explore potential careers by utilizing MOIS, College View, job shadowing opportunities.
- Begin researching your post-secondary experience by utilizing the CCC during VIP.
- Register with the NCAA Clearinghouse if you plan on participating in college athletics.

WINTER

- Arrange college visitation dates, explore apprenticeship or vocational opportunities, and continue to job shadow.
- If you plan on attending college, research the admission requirements and decide on whether you will need to take the ACT (Does your college require the writing portion), SAT, or both to gain entrance.
- Approach the CCC about using the ACTive prep software to prepare for the ACT.
- Secure an ACT or SAT packet and register for an exam date.

SPRING

- Take the ACT or SAT exam if required for college entrance.
- Continue to research and visit colleges, job shadow, or explore other career opportunities.
- Begin discussion with parents/guardians on which colleges you want to apply to. Secure those applications from CCC and plan to submit those in early fall.

NEWS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL

PLAN/PSAT Test Date

Sophomores and juniors who have already signed up and paid for the PLAN or PSAT tests will be taking the test on October 21, 2006. The sophomores will be taking the PLAN test from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the high school. The juniors will be taking the PSAT test from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at the high school. The PLAN or PSAT will be the test used to determine eligibility for dual enrollment. It will no longer be the MEAP test. Students interested in dual enrollment should keep in mind, you must have already taken one of these tests by October, the year before you plan to dual-enroll.

Fall MEAP Test

The fall MEAP test will begin on Monday, October 23, 2006 and will end Friday, October 27, 2006. This test is for seniors ONLY who need to retake a portion of the test to earn their merit award. Please sign up in the CCC now to be included in the fall test cycle. Deadline for signing up is September 29, 2006. There will be 1 more test cycle in the spring (TBA).

Michigan Merit Exam

This test will be replacing the MEAP test. Juniors will no longer be taking the MEAP test, but taking the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) in place of it. The test will be given in March. More information will follow.

Financial Aid

The applications for financial aid should be arriving in the CCC during the last part of November or the early part of December. A workshop to help with the application completion process will be held in January (time and date TBA).

Sophomores to learn more about Vo-Tech

An assembly will be held in early December (date & time TBA) in the B.H.S. gymnasium for the purpose of giving all sophomore students information about Lenawee Vo-Tech programs. Panels of current Vo-Tech students and community members will give their impressions about Vo-Tech to the audience. At the conclusion, Ms. Deb Pellowe of the Lenawee Vo-Tech Center will ask each sophomore to select three programs to visit when their class tours the center on Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2006.

Senior Information

Scholarships for seniors are kept in the CCC. Seniors should check the file on a weekly basis. Announcements will be made for every incoming scholarship we receive and will be posted that day outside the CCC. Computer searches are also available in the CCC for scholarships. The state of Michigan also has a web site that is useful in scholarship searches and for locating Michigan Awards. It is: www.mi/studentaid.org.

College Applications

Students are encouraged to have their college applications already mailed. In the event that they do not they should visit their counselor to begin the process. Most will have taken the ACT Test, but registration packets are still available for those who still need to take ACT or SAT tests.

College Night

College night will be October 18, 2006 at Siena Heights University Field House, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. There will be a very large variety of colleges and the armed services present.

Michigan Competitive Scholarship

Eligibility for the Michigan Competitive Scholarship Program is determined in part by the student achieving a qualifying score on the ACT. Therefore it is critical the seniors who have not taken the ACT be advised to do so, no later than the December 9, 2006 test date.

MEAP Information

The High School has received the scores from the Spring 2006 MEAP test. There was an announcement and students could pick up their scores in the CCC. If you haven't received your scores stop by the CCC and pick them up. The Merit Award is \$2,500 for those students passing with one's and/or two's. The money will be distributed in two payments of \$1,250 each, paid over two consecutive years. Failure to use your funds in two consecutive academic years will result in forfeiture of the \$1,250 balance. Students must complete certification by September 15 of the year they plan to use their award.

COUNSELING AND CAREER CENTER

ACT/SAT Deadlines

ACT TEST DATE

October 28, 2006
December 9, 2006
February 10, 2007
April 14, 2007
June 9, 2007

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

September 22, 2006
November 3, 2006
January 5, 2007
March 9, 2007
May 4, 2007

LATE REGISTRATION

September 23-Oct 6, 2006
November 4-16, 2006
January 6-9, 2007
March 10-23, 2007
May 5-18, 2007

SAT TEST DATE

November 4, 2006
December 2, 2006
January 27, 2007
March 10, 2007
May 5, 2007
June 2, 2007

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

September 29, 2006
November 1, 2006
December 20, 2006
February 2, 2007
March 29, 2007
April 27, 2007

LATE REGISTRATION

October 11, 2006
November 9, 2006
January 4, 2007
February 14, 2007
April 11, 2007
May 9, 2007



Congratulations to the Homecoming Court 2006

Pictured are (front) Amy Martin, Callie Slomski, Krista Liewert, Danielle Goetz. (Back) Coté Lavoy, Steven Bateson, Jacque Pruitt, Dustin Brown

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES-JULY 2006

A regular meeting of Blissfield Community Schools Board of Education was held on Monday evening, July 10, 2006, in the high school library. Seven board members were present. Also in attendance were administrators, staff and members of the public.

Motions were made and seconded for the following:

- minutes of the June 19, 2006 regular meetings were accepted as presented
- June/July bills be approved for payment as presented
- to appoint Norris Klump as the BFEE representative for 2006-2007
- to appoint Audricka Jacob as the LCASB representative for 2006-2007
- to appoint Linda Hamann as the Labor Relations Network representative for 2006-2007
- to approve the NEOLA recommended
- to approve the MESSA Choices II health plan for all employees beginning Sept. 1, 2006
- to adjourn the meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew Schroeder, Secretary

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES-AUGUST 2006

A regular meeting of Blissfield Community Schools Board of Education was held on Monday evening, August 14, 2006 in the high school library. Seven board members were present. Also in attendance were administrators, staff and members of the public.

Motions were made and seconded for the following:

- Minutes of the July 10, 2006 regular meetings were accepted as presented
- August bills be approved for payment as presented
- to hire Melissa Elsholz as the new band teacher.

Mike Noel, BEA President and KC Hufford, Technology Coordinator, explained the new technology that has been added to each building this year. New computers and whiteboards were placed in selected rooms for teachers. Building Principals, Dee Crane, Jerry Johnson and Mark Willson explained how the decisions were arrived at to determine which teachers' rooms were selected to place the whiteboards in that were purchased. Daniel Garno, CFO, added that revenue sources were being identified to possibly add additional whiteboards during the school year. A motion was made and seconded to approve the new Blissfield Community Schools Bus Driver Handbook as presented.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the volunteer coaches for fall sports. They are Rich Tracy, Football, Ben Fox, Cross Country, Virg Diver and Dan Pawson, Golf.

A motion was made and seconded to award the 2006-2007 milk purchases to Reiter Dairy and the bread purchases to Perfection Bakeries as recommended by Charlene Horky, Food Service Director.

Tom Kasefang, Facilities Director, updated the Board on the status of several projects around the District, including the football stadium construction, new elementary classroom sinks and countertops, new plumbing fixtures in the locker rooms and other miscellaneous projects.

All school Principals outlined changes being proposed in their handbooks to be implemented for the 2006-2007 school year. In addition, calendar events were reviewed for the beginning of the school year. Other new programs were also reviewed such as a new after-school tutoring program at the middle school called the DRIVE Program, and a new combination classroom at the elementary level for 3rd and 4th graders.

Superintendent Palka presented some of the challenges to the educational process as well as safety concern for the students when public elections are held in the school building during school hours. Principal Dee Crane also stated that she could not ensure the safety and security of the building when elections were taking place during the school day. In addition, the children were displaced from the library and experienced interruptions to their lessons. There were also many transportation challenges. A motion was made and seconded to discontinue providing the Blissfield Community Schools buildings for the purpose of holding elections.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew Schroeder, Secretary

The Blissfield Community Schools Communicator is published quarterly by the school system and mailed to school district residents.

The Blissfield School District does not discriminate in any of its educational programs, activities, or employment practices on the basis of race, creed, national origin, sex, age, handicap, or English-speaking ability, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1963.

ADMINISTRATION

- Paul Palka.....Superintendent of Schools
- Jerry Johnson.....High School Principal
- Cris Rupp.....H.S. Administrative Assistant
- Dee Crane.....Elementary School Principal
- Mark Willson.....Middle School Principal

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

- Norris Klump.....President
- Larry Bausman.....Vice-President
- Matthew Schroeder.....Secretary
- Sharon Lips.....Treasurer
- Audricka Jacob.....Trustee
- JoDee Friess.....Trustee
- Linda Hamann.....Trustee

BLISSFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
MISSION STATEMENT

Blissfield Community Schools will provide a learning environment that will challenge students to become life-long learners and productive members of the community. This philosophy will be used to guide the decisions and plans made by administrators and staff throughout the school system.

SCHOOL VISITATIONS

All parents and guardians are welcome at Blissfield Community Schools at any time. However, with concerns for school safety,

WE REQUEST ALL VISITORS REPORT TO THE OFFICE UPON ENTERING.

Thank you for your cooperation



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