



THE BLISSFIELD COMMUNICATOR



Spring 2007 Issue

A Publication of Blissfield Community Schools

Please take a survey...

At the beginning of 2006, a survey to all Blissfield Community stakeholder representatives (students, parents, employees, community, and board members) was conducted. Advancing technology was a priority for many of those who responded to that survey.

To assist decision-makers in the challenging effort to allocate limited resources, please indicate your considered responses to the new 2007 Technology Survey, available using the link from the Blissfield district web page @ www.blissfield.k12.mi.us

At the conclusion, there is space to expand on any specific concerns that you have regarding technology in Blissfield Schools. Blissfield Community Schools endeavors to provide a superior level of technology implementation. This includes integration of technology in classroom instruction, training of students in technology skills and knowledge, and the efficient use of technology by teachers, administrators, and support staff.

Thank you for your time and concern.

Earth Day Activities

Students in Mrs. Porter's 3rd/4th grade split classroom celebrated Earth Day by cleaning up the courtyard. Several parents assisted and many flowers, bird feeders and other yard necessities were donated.

In honor of Earth Day and in correlation with our 1st grade science curriculum all 1st grade students participated in the annual First Grade Trash Bash on Friday, April 20th. The students picked up trash all over the school grounds.



Congratulations Class of '07!

The Community is invited to attend the celebrations of Baccalaureate on Thursday, May 31 at 7 p.m. and the Graduation Ceremony Friday, June 1 at 7 p.m.

School cafeteria news

As the school year comes to a close, we want to bring to your attention the negative balance in your child's breakfast or lunch account. We are asking all parents to bring your child's account to a zero or positive balance. Please know that your child's money will transfer as your child moves from grade to grade at Blissfield Schools. You may withdraw your child's balance if you move or upon your child's graduation. If your child has been charging meals, extra helpings, or extra milk, and you don't want him or her to be able to do so, please call 486-2148, ext. 222. Our computerized cash register system has the capabilities to let the cashier know parents' wishes and desires regarding charging. Thank you for your cooperation.

BLISSFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



THANK YOU, BLISSFIELD FOUNDATION, for all the science, math, and language arts educational games that you provided for us with the grant that our teacher, Mrs. Mills, wrote.

2nd grade has busy May planned

Many fun and educational activities will be taking place during the month of May in the second grade classrooms. Paul McCormack will visit in May. He will be presenting his "Critters in the Classroom". This is a hands-on experience that is wonderful for the children. They get a chance to see some reptiles and amphibians (our unit of study) up close-- and even touch some of them if they want to. This is our in-school field trip.

Other planned activities include the Blissfield State Bank coming to enhance our unit on economics, our Toledo Zoo trip (again with a focus on reptiles and amphibians) and Officer Pooley who will visit sometime before the end of the year to talk to the kids about bike safety. These activities take place each year during the month of May and the children always look forward to learning through them.

Mrs. Mueller's class is ready for 1st grade!

"ODE TO KINDERGARTEN"

I look at all my students as diamonds in the rough
 I tell them to do their best and not just 'good enough'
 I always keep on caring and remember why I teach
 I give my students wings to fly and show them stars to reach
 I reach out now to parents of the students I have had
 I thank you for this year - to end it makes me sad

Mrs. Mueller

This is it - our final hurrah! Mrs. Mueller's kindergarten students are on their way to 1st grade. We have had a very good year and will be finishing out the school year with many things to do and see. Our final unit in Science - the 4 seasons - is almost complete with final assessments within the next few weeks. We have learned in Math everything we need to know for 1st grade. For Social Studies, we will learn about recycling and what a 'veteran' is. We will make goodie bags for the veterans in the Ann Arbor Veteran's Hospital. Mrs. Mueller has a few fun days planned - we will be visited by our Future Farmers of America, who will do a presentation for us; the high school students will bring over some agriculture 'things' for us to see; and we will take a walking field trip to the Model Railroad Museum. Our final assessments are almost complete and report cards will be done by the end of the year. To finish the year off, we will have our own 'purple and gold day' games and make some-mores for a snack. Thanks for a great year, everyone!



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CALENDAR

- May 7..... Kindergarten Music Programs (A.M. at 6 p.m. P.M. at 7 p.m.)
- May 7-9..... Vision and Hearing Screening, grades 1-5
- May 8..... 1st and 3rd Grade Music Programs (1st at 6 p.m.; 3rd at 7 p.m.)
- May 10..... 4th-5th Grade Music Programs (5th at 6 p.m.; 4th at 7 p.m.)
- May 11..... Grandparents' Day (3rd grade)
- May 14-18..... 5th grade Downtown Planting
- May 15..... 5th grade transition visit to Middle School
- May 16..... Ag Day (a.m. & p.m. Kindergarten at school all day); Blissfield State Bank presents to 2nd grade
- May 16-17..... Vision and Hearing retests, grades 1-5
- May 18..... 2nd grade visits Toledo Zoo; Quiet Heroes Program (7 p.m.)
- May 21..... State and Federal Programs Planning Meeting (3 p.m.)
- May 23..... Kindergarten field trip to Blissfield Railroad (a.m. & p.m. at school all day)
- May 25..... 3rd grade trip to Blissfield State Bank
4th grade Math/Science Olympiad
- May 28..... Memorial Day - no school
- June 1..... Purple and Gold Day; School Picnic
- June 4..... Rain date for Purple/Gold Day and School Picnic
- June 7..... Tentative last day for K-5 students (full day of school)
- June 12..... Report cards available in the school office (8 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

2nd graders perform

Two ethnic plays were performed by Mrs. Hibdon's second-grade class for audiences at the Elementary's Family Reading Night on March 6th. The first play, "No Water for Hare," originated from an African folktale. The lesson learned by Hare was that working together benefits all. The second play, "Nian, the Dragon", suggested the origin of the Chinese New Year began long ago when a Chinese boy and girl chased the menacing dragon from their village once and for all. From then on, the dragon was only seen in Chinese New Year parades. The audience and performers enjoyed the folktales together!

Pictured is Breanna Morgan as the dragon in the play, "Nian the Dragon."



2nd graders dissect sheep eye

Second graders got a first-hand look at the intricate, amazing eye when dissecting sheep eyes with Terri Langton, and instructor from the Monroe County Intermediate School District. She demonstrated proper care of the eye as well as identifying the lens, pupil, retina, and optic nerve of the sheep eye. Then, each second grader dissected a sheep eye, putting the parts on an identification chart. It certainly was an eye-opening experience for students and parent volunteers alike!

Pictured are Colton Hine with his mother overseeing the eye dissection and Collin Williams using scissors to dissect his sheep eye.



BLISSFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Even the staff enjoyed Rock and Roll into Reading Dress-Up Day! Pictured left to right are Linda Mueller, Jayne Gorski, Vicki Silva, Kym Morrison, Sandi Porter, and Christina Shearer



Blake Scott is caught "catching sound" with his ears during a science unit on sound in Mrs. Mills' second grade classroom.

Principals for the day



Two winning tickets at the Blissfield PTO Family Fun Night earned Anddora Martinez and Abby Slusher the opportunity to be the Blissfield Elementary School Principal for the Day. On Friday, March 9, Ms. Martinez, a fifth grade student in Mr. Vandecaveye's class, assumed her duties as principal. On Friday, April 20, Ms. Slusher, a fifth grade student in Mrs. Hojnacki's class, assumed her duties as principal. Both girls spent their special day making announcements, assisting classroom teachers, supervising students, and dealing with the many requests made by students, teachers, and parents. Mrs. Crane, Blissfield Elementary School's Principal on all other days, said she appreciated the great help she had for those two days. She also added, "We try really hard to make this a very special day for our guest principals. I think they enjoy the experience and they always develop a new appreciation for all that takes place during a school day."

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5th grade makes history come alive

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to meet Albert Einstein, Benjamin Franklin, Harriet Tubman, or even old Abraham Lincoln? If you have, then take the time to talk to any elementary student who got to see history come alive last month as the fifth grade presented their third annual wax museum.



Fifth grade students took over a month working on this extensive project which included choosing, gathering, and reading information about a person in history, writing a research paper, turning it into a first person speech and then portraying them. Most students had either a prop or costume that helped bring their character to life. The museum was on display for about an hour and a half where many parents, grandparents, staff members, and students meandered through pushing characters' "buttons" and catching a glimpse of someone famous. Pictured above are Noah Loar as Steve Irwin, the Crocodile Hunter, and Jon Hart as Benjamin Franklin.



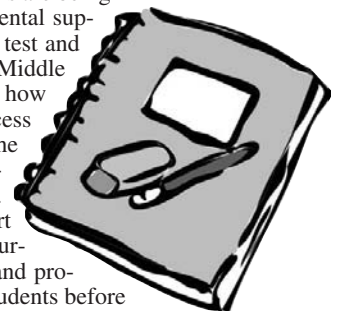
BLISSFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL CALENDAR

- May 4..... Entrepreneur Day
- May 7..... 8th Grade to H.S. for Scheduling
- May 9..... Payback for Education
- May 10..... Fine Arts Night 7:30 p.m.
- May 11..... Hoops for Heart
- May 14..... BMS Picnic
- May 17..... Solar Cookout
- May 23..... Steering Committee 3-4 p.m.
- May 28..... No School Memorial Day
- June 7-8..... Half days Final Exams

Parents needed to support MEAP and final exam testing

Plans are already underway to organize support for our Blissfield Middle School students as they look into the 2007-2008 school year. At this point, discussion is occurring and plans are being made to focus on two major areas of parental support. They include the 2007-2008 MEAP test and the semester final exams. The Blissfield Middle School staff want our students to know how eager we are for them to experience success in the two largest testing arenas of the school year, and we are teaming with parents to offer as much support as possible. Discussion, at this point, includes support through positive testing affirmation (encouraging notes) and a plan to both hydrate and provide a healthy snack to all of our BMS Students before the testing begins each day. Brain gymnastic techniques are also being explored to "Get those brains warmed up before the testing begins!" Any parent who would like to get involved with this program should contact Kristy Suiter or Kris Knierim at 466-4420.



'07-'08 Steering Committee

Plans are underway to begin planning for the 2007 -2008 Blissfield Middle School Steering Committee. Any parent who would like more information on serving in this capacity should contact the middle school office at 486-4420. Any parent who wishes to serve on this committee should contact the middle school office by May 18, 2007.

BLISSFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL



8th Grade Camp 2007



“Reliving Our Roots...An 1800 Experience”

ATTENTION ALL BRAVE CAMPERS!!!!

The excitement builds for 8th grade camp 2007. We want to remind you of a few things about camp and give you detailed information about your final event at BMS.

- Make sure you are here at 8 am on Wednesday the 23rd. You will need to bring a sack lunch to eat at camp later. Make sure it contains nothing that can be “squashed”.
- We have the medical information on file that you provided earlier. If there are any changes or additions, please make us aware in writing. If there are any prescriptions or medicine that your child needs, drop them off to the office before we leave for camp.
- We will be returning home from camp at 12:45 pm on May 25th. **YOU MUST HAVE A RIDE HERE!!!** You may not ride the bus home or enter the school to disrupt classes.
- We would like students to bring one dozen cookies to be collected before we leave for camp and then distributed at meal times.
- If you have an emergency during school hours and need to contact your child please call the school at (517) 486-4420 X 211, after school hours (419) 459-4486.
- Remember you have to carry **EVERYTHING** that you pack. Do not pack more than you can carry. A large backpack or a bag with a sturdy shoulder strap is recommended. We are there for two nights, not two weeks.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

Clothing (All clothing to be marked with child’s name)

A Belt
Bring old but clean clothes
One sweat suit or pajamas
Raincoat or Poncho
One pair of tennis shoes
One pair of boots
Four pair of socks (at least)
Underwear
Shorts ?
Two or three pair of pants
Two or three shirts
One sweatshirt or sweater
Warm jacket or down vest
NO FLIP FLOPS FOR CANOEING

Bedding

Pillowcase (fill with clothes for pillow)
Sleeping bag

Toilet Articles

Small container of liquid soap
(can be used for both soap and shampoo)
Towel and washcloth
Comb / Brush
Tissues
Tooth paste / brush

Equipment

Flashlight
Sunglasses?

Equipment continued...

Pencil and small notebook
Inexpensive or disposable camera
Extra film
Mosquito repellent
Sun screen
At least 2 large plastic garbage bags

*See
You
There!*

DO NOT BRING

Money
Comic Books
Knives
Curling Irons
Radio
CD player
Cards
Matches
Squirt Guns
Electronic Equipment
Hair Dryers

ANY food items (the wild animals will invade them)

Please Note: If above items are brought, they will be taken away and returned when they get home.

We hope you are all excited about our fun and safe experience. Make sure you get plenty of sleep before camp begins.

REMEMBER:

Be here at 8 am on Wednesday the 23rd
Bring Cookies
Bring Sack Lunch
Drop off any meds to office
Have a ride here at 12:45 Friday the 25th

BLISSFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Help for needy animals

Seventh grade students (pictured) collected loose change for Sasha Farm, a sanctuary and safe haven for animals located in Manchester, Michigan. The workers from Sasha Farm rescued over 80 animals that were in need from Hurricane Katrina. For more information, contact Linda Kalmar, the BMS teacher who coordinated the change drive, or go to www.sasha-farm.org on the Internet.



Intramural in full swing

Blissfield Middle School Teachers Lisa Babbitt and Lon Smith have spent the last six weeks organizing and running the BMS Intramural Program. The program has enticed the interest of many of our BMS students who have enjoyed participating in floor hockey, basketball, and volleyball. Each sport is focused on for a two week period of time, and students stay after school from 2:45 p.m. to 4:10 p.m. four days a week.

Track News...

The BMS Track Program is in full swing again this spring. Boys and girls in grades 7 and 8 are all using our beautiful all weather track to get themselves in shape and test their abilities. Mr. Chris Gobel, Mrs. Rhonda Holdridge, Mr. Joey Navarro, Mrs. Margaret Goetz, and Ms. Jennifer Moore will all be working with our young track runners this spring. Good luck Royals.

7th graders hear about postponing sexual involvement

The BMS 7th grade class spent a week of their science class listening to Mrs. Beth Abbott, a former BHS graduate, present the postponing sexual involvement unit. Mrs. Abbott, a counselor with the Family & Children's Services of Adrian, Michigan, talked to the students about statistics associated with sexually active teens, and also discussed why students may become sexually active. She also discussed strategies for teaching students to be assertive, and how to say no. The four day session ended with a panel discussion involving teen girls from the Lenawee Prep Academy (a Lenawee County School that is available to pregnant teen girls, or to girls who have recently given birth to a child) and BMS students.

6th graders visit CFC

The 6th grade class visited the Christian Family Center on April 26th, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The field trip put closure on an excellent sixth grade year, and students swam, bowled, and used the facilities for most of the day. Team work, cooperation, and celebration are all important components to success, and the annual sixth grade field trip reinforces all of these concepts.

8th grade band members attend state band festival

The eighth grade band students travelled to Dexter, Michigan to compete in the State Band Festival on April 27th. The students departed at 12:30 p.m. and performed at 2:40 p.m. The 8th grade middle school band has performed well all year long and was anxious to compete at the state level. Dinner, at the Ann Arbor Mongolian Barbecue, took place as part of the return ride home. Great job, Royal Band Members.

DRIVE Program extremely effective... Thank You, Parents!

As the 2006-2007 school year comes to a close I'd like to reflect back on a program that has made a huge impact on the success of our Blissfield Middle School Students. That program is DRIVE (Developing Responsibility is Vitally Essential) and after much research, was adopted by the Blissfield Middle School Staff last spring. Through much effort and adjustment DRIVE has helped 99% of all our students to complete all of their assignments. A survey given during the winter of 2006 revealed that the number one reason, according to the BMS Staff, that students fail is because they don't complete their work. The DRIVE Program has eliminated most of that challenge and 97% of all BMS Students received passing grades at semester time (51% of those students were on the A / B Honor Roll!). Similar results are expected at the conclusion of our second semester. A vital and probably the most important part of the program's success has been the overwhelming support it has received from the Blissfield Middle School parents. Because our parents support the program (99% agreed to pick their sons/daughters up from school after attending DRIVE) and wanted to send the right message about valuing education, DRIVE has been extremely effective. We are so fortunate to have such a fine pillar of support in our community. Thank you, parents.

-Mark Willson, BMS Principal

6th graders operate own business

The sixth grade class will be operating their own businesses on May 4, 2007, during the last two hours of the day. In an effort to promote creative thinking and give students a taste of the business world, the sixth grade class will be hosting an Entrepreneur Day. To begin the process, students are encouraged to find partners, brainstorm, and form a business plan. Students are then encouraged to talk the plan over with their parents and get approval from their first hour teacher. Notebook sized advertisements can then be used to promote their businesses, and can be displayed as early as April 30th. A complete set of guidelines will be sent home with each sixth grade student, and questions can be addressed by Mr.



Payback for Education

The 8th grade class will be represented this year in the annual Payback for Education. Each year, in a business and education partnership, students from our county schools visit our local businesses, in a work site experience, to learn more about life and responsibility in the world of work. Upon their visit students, educators, and business partners return to Siena Heights University to share information and have lunch. The goal of the experience is to build strong partnerships between business and education, as well as to introduce students to the world of work.

Fine Arts Night a delight!

The Blissfield Middle School will be hosting a fine arts night on Thursday, May 10th. The evening will begin at 7:30 p.m. as the middle school band performs in the gymnasium. Following their performance, students and parents will be encouraged to walk through the cafeteria where Mr. Rob Stranges, BMS Art Instructor, will be displaying the recent art work of the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students.



BLISSFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Solar Cookout

The seventh grade students in Mr. Thompson's classes will be participating in the annual solar cookout on Thursday, May 17. The cookout is the culmination of a science project which includes researching plans for building a solar cooker, constructing it, and experimenting through trial and error. Each student will be filling out a questionnaire to provide information about the whole process. Interviews will take place during the cooking to provide further opportunity for the students to expound on the process. The project is a fun way to help develop many goals such as planning, cooperation, meeting deadlines, and creativity. It is always a fun day of learning. Although representatives from the food and drug administration will not be present, BMS Teachers will be keeping an eye out for undercooked food!

The students will also be taking a walking tour of Blissfield's water filtration plant that day. It is a great opportunity for them to learn about what happens at the plant and how important our water is.

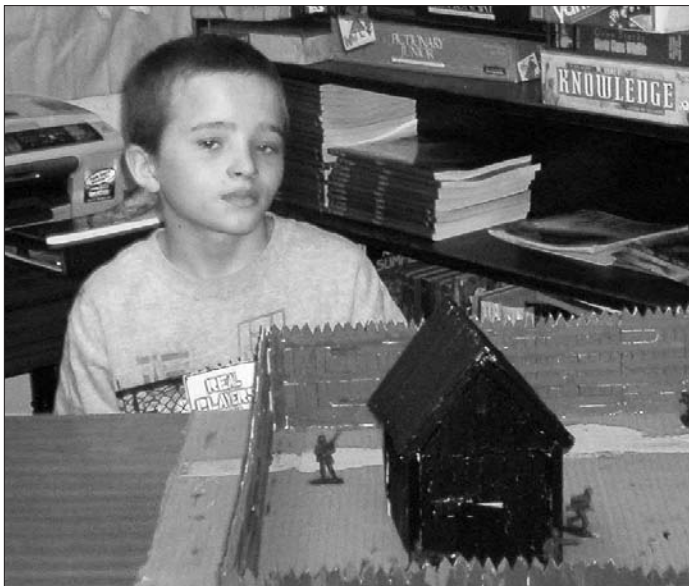
BMS students help fight heart disease

Blissfield Middle School students will be participating in their 3rd annual "HOOPS FOR HEART" activity. The event is sponsored by the physical education department. The goal is to raise funds for the American Heart Association (AHA) and to increase awareness of the importance of a healthy heart and lifestyle. Students who participate in the event will be accepting contributions from April 26-May 10, 2007. All middle school students and teachers will participate in "HOOPS" and other healthy heart activities on May 11th to celebrate their own health and the success of this important community service activity.

Please consider supporting our youth in their effort to raise funds for the American Heart Association. The AHA uses the tax deductible contributions to help fight heart disease and stroke – our nation's number one and three killers. If every student could raise just \$10, we would raise over \$3000 which the Heart Association uses to improve emergency response to and treatment of heart attack, cardiac arrest and stroke. It also supports their heart and stroke research program which ultimately will lead to better ways to diagnose, treat, and prevent cardiovascular disease.

Treasure Island fun!

Sixth grade students show off their final projects from reading Treasure Island. Students read the story and completed many projects in school and at home. Everyone did a great job.



Computer Donations

The 7th grade PC Repair class would like to thank everyone who donated computers, monitors, printers and other parts for the class to use this year. Right now we have everything we need to finish the year and no longer need any donations. If you have old computers or monitors that you are thinking of getting rid of, the PC Repair class recommends giving it to the Goodwill store in Adrian, Michigan. Again, thanks for all the help this year. Pictured is seventh grader, Kristen Snyder assembling her computer tower during her class time.

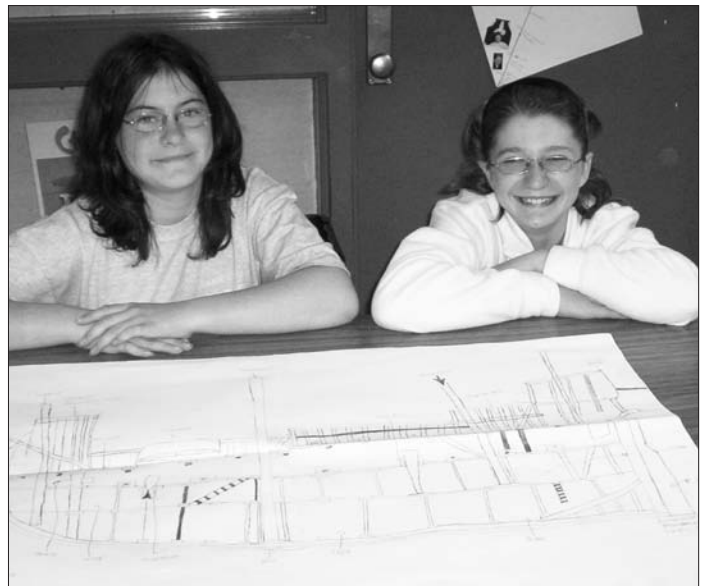
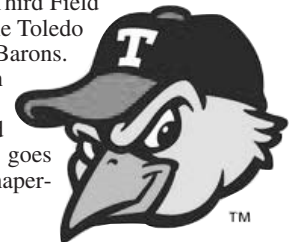


American Idle DVDs available

If you missed out on the Middle School production of "American Idle" or would like to see it again, you can own your own DVD copy for only \$1. Please contact Scott Ricker at 486-4420 Ext 4310 for details or send your student with a dollar bill to see Mr. Ricker by May 11th.

7th grade cheers the Mud Hens

The seventh grade students at Blissfield Middle School participated in the School Celebration Days at Fifth Third Field in Toledo. The day included watching the Toledo Mud Hens face the Sacramento Red Barons. Follow up activities were taught in numerous subject areas thanks to a curriculum packet provided by the Mud Hens organization. A special thank you goes to all the parents who volunteered to chaperone the field trip.



BLISSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

News from the Counseling & Career Center

OFFERINGS FROM THE CCC

The Career Counseling Center at BHS is an excellent resource to help you on your way to college or a great career. We have many summer opportunities available for students to take advantage of, from fun camps to career/sports focused seminars. We are also a main resource for scholarships of all types, transcripts, and your college applications.

SCHEDULING

BHS scheduling is completed for next year. Once again our classes are tight, and there will not be an opportunity to make schedule changes next year except for dual enrollment or Vo-Tech openings. Thanks to the staff, students and families to make this as painless as possible.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Scholarship deadline has passed. The latest deadline was March 31st for most scholarships. Juniors, please keep this date in the back of your mind for next year. We had some students fill out dozens of applications (with essays and letters of recommendation) and will definitely reap the rewards, but don't wait until the last minute, it takes time.

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.

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 O of the registration folder. To be assured of on-time consideration, applicants planning to enroll in college during the 2008-2009 school year, should take the April, June, October, or December 2007 ACT Assessment test. ACT registration packets are available in the CCC

SUMMER SCHOOL AT LENAWEE VO-TECH

Summer applications for Lenawee Vo-Tech are now available in the CCC. The dates are June 18th through July 6th. Classes meet daily from 8:00am-12:15pm. A tuition fee of \$40 will be charged. Students will take in or mail their own application and checks to Lenawee Vo-Tech. Courses will be offered in the following areas: Applied Math, Building Trades, Careers in Early Childhood Development, Collision Repair & Refinish, Computer Information Services, Drafting/CAD, Graphic Imagining, and Video/Audio. "Show me the money" is also available to eligible special education students. Any class with fewer than 15 students will not run and students in those cancelled sections can receive a refund or select another course. Only one course can be taken during this time slot and half credit will be awarded. As other summer school options become available, students will be notified by the counselors.

SUMMER SCHOOL AT ADRIAN HIGH SCHOOL

Summer school is yet pending at Adrian High School. For more information please call (517)263-2181

K-12 SUMMER TUTORS

The CCC in the high school has a summer tutor list for K-12. If you are interested in a summer tutor, please call 486-2148 x 203 for the current list.

MICHIGAN MERIT EXAM (MME)

The MME took place March 13-March 16 in the high school for all juniors. This was the first year this test was given. As a part of the MME juniors took the ACT, which is a college reportable exam. Test results should be available 4 to 6 weeks after the completion of the exam. Congratulations on a job well done!

MEAP/HST TESTING

The final MEAP/HST took place March 19-March 23 in the high school for any seniors who signed up to retest, to earn The Michigan Promise Scholarship. The Michigan Merit Exam will take the place of the MEAP for juniors and seniors beginning with the Class of 2008. Students, who score a 1 or 2 in all areas except social studies, will be eligible for The State of Michigan Promise Scholarship for post-secondary study.

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Current BHS juniors, soon to be seniors, are reminded to submit their college applications as soon as possible this coming fall 2007. Some of the larger schools, such as U of M and MSU, have a competitive application process and students submitting their materials earlier increase their chances of acceptance. The University of Michigan will begin accepting applications for the fall of 2008 school year beginning September 1, 2007.

PLAN AND PSAT INFORMATION

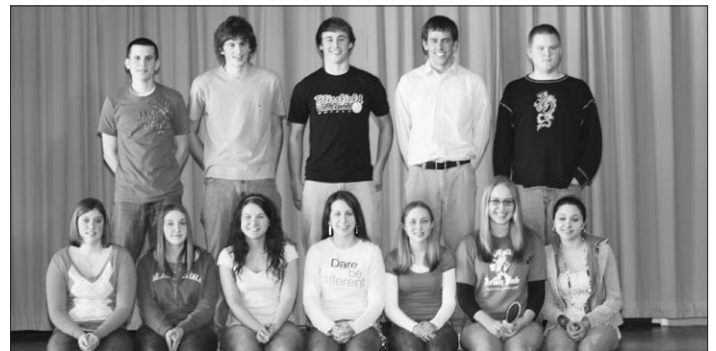
The PLAN (Pre-ACT) test and the PSAT (pre-SAT and National Merit Scholar Qualifying Test) will be given in the fall of 2007. Students will be given information for the PLAN in their Social Studies 9 classes and for the PSAT in their US History classes in early May. Sign up for these fall tests is THIS SPRING ONLY. There will be no other sign up available for these tests. If parents have any questions or concerns, or would like to sign their students up now, you may call the Counseling office at 486-2148 x 203.

HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

May 4.....	Blood Drive
May 7.....	Scheduling for fall classes ends
May 8.....	Top Twenty Luncheon
May 10.....	Top Twenty Luncheon
May 15.....	Fine Arts Festival
May 16.....	Ag Day at the elementary
May 18.....	Mentor/Mentee Retreat
May 25.....	Seniors' last day of classes/ Sr. exams
May 28.....	Memorial Day - No School
May 29.....	Service Learning Day; Academic Honors Night 7:00 p.m.
May 31.....	Senior Breakfast/ Graduation Practice;
June 1.....	Baccalaureate 7:00 p.m.
June 7.....	Graduation ceremony 7:00 p.m.
June 8.....	1/2 day exams/ Teacher Records Day 1/2 day exams/ Teacher Records Day

shakespeare reigns!

On February 23, 2007 Blissfield High held a school-wide Shakespeare Recitation Contest. Several high school teachers made it a mandatory class assignment, others offered it as a voluntary activity. The students were asked to choose a Shakespeare monologue or sonnet and recite it from memory. In the weeks prior to the contest, participating teachers taught oral presentation skills and held classroom competitions. Of the 150 original participants, 13 were chosen to compete on the day of the contest. The contest was held during VIP and open to the student body to attend. The 13 participants did a fantastic job with their recitation! Anna Risher, Jordan Marks and Erica Devantier were the winners of the competition and received gift certificates to the Adrian Mall. The contest was received well by the students and staff and will continue as an annual event.



Pictured are the students who participated in the contest: Front row - Rene Mattek, Stephanie Marry, Amy Schmidt, Erica DeVantier, Ashley Miller, Anna Risher, Morgan Denudt Back row - Brad Walters, Wade May, John Estes, Jordan Marks, Anthony Smith.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Next year's juniors and seniors will be getting information on dual enrollment. The application process MUST be completed before the end of this school year, as you will be starting your dual enrollment courses before BHS courses begin. A VIP meeting is scheduled on May 16th in the CCC in order to get dual enrollment information out to interested students. Please stop into the CCC to sign up ahead of time, space is limited.

COLLEGE READINESS FOR JUNIORS

Are you unsure of how to start the process of applying to college? Which college would be the best choice? Are you uncertain of how to apply for financial aid and scholarships? The Counseling Office is scheduling a College Planning Session for all juniors interested in continuing their education. There are 4 dates available: May 8, May 9, May 11, and May 23 during VIP. Sign up is in Mr. Angel's classroom or the CCC. Space is limited, so sign up right away to insure your spot.

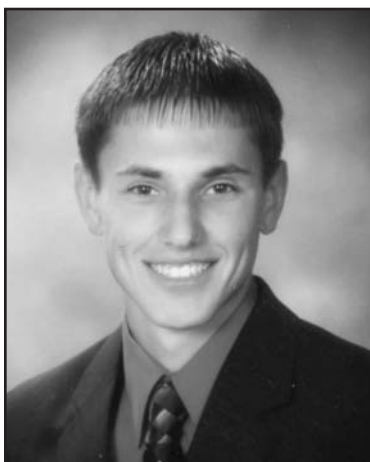
If you have individual questions about your academic career, Mrs. Bausman will meet with you individually. You must attend the College Readiness Group Meeting to be eligible for the individual meeting. Sign up for the individual session is in the CCC and Mr. Angel's room. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to speak one on one with Mrs. Bausman to help guide you to your goals.

TOP TEN STUDENTS HONORED



KENNETH BRIAN BOWMAN is the son of Brian and Kaye Bowman and will attend Michigan State University to study mechanical engineering. He has earned the MEAP Merit Award and the MSU College of Engineering undergraduate scholarship. He has been active in the concert and marching bands. Ken's favorite memory is the night the football team made the playoffs.

ERICA MICHELLE DEVANTIER is the daughter of Jim and Shelly DeVantier. Erica will attend the University of Toledo and major in Speech Language Pathology. She has been involved in basketball, volleyball, and soccer teams earning the Captain's Award, and the Scholar-Athlete Award. Erica has served as Vice-President of Class Council and as a BLISS Mentor. She has been selected as Student of the Week, Junior Rotarian, and was in the Honor Society. She will receive the University of Toledo Tower of Excellence Scholarship and the University of Toledo Legacy Award. Her favorite BHS memory is playing in the Powder Puff football game during Homecoming her junior year.



BRENT MICHAEL EISENMANN is the son of Zell and Rita Eisenmann. Brent will attend Spring Arbor University to enter their 3-2 engineering program. After three years, he will transfer to Michigan State University for two more years to complete his electrical engineering degree. He will also run in the track program at Spring Arbor in the fall. His special awards and activities include Student of the Year in English 9, Spanish I, English 11 and Government. He was also selected as the

Junior Rotarian during the month of November, the varsity soccer captain for two years, and the track captain for one year. His favorite memory at BHS is when he scored the only goal in Blissfield's first soccer playoff win during his sophomore year giving the Royals the win in a 1-0 game against Clinton.

DANIELLE LANAI GOETZ is the daughter of Gary and Laurie Goetz. She will attend Michigan State University in the fall majoring in elementary education. While at BHS she has participated in the BLISS Mentor program as the Executive Committee Chairperson for two years, Student Council for two years, (one year as committee chairperson), basketball for four years, track for four years and choir in solo and ensemble competition. She has received several awards including the Excellence in Leadership for the BLISS Mentor program, LCAA Sportsmanship Award, All League honors in the 800 meter relay and the 400 meter relay, All Regional in 800 meter relay and the 400 meter relay, Honor Society for three years, and Junior Rotarian. She has also been awarded the Michigan Merit Award and the Westfield Scholarship. Her fondest memory of her BHS years is singing karaoke with track teammates at the state track meet.



*Education is what survives
when what has been learned
has been forgotten.*

~B.F. Skinner

JENNIFER HEINEMAN is the daughter of Mark and Mary Heineman and plans to attend Siena Heights University in the fall to major in pre-veterinary science. After four years at SHU, she plans to further her education in graduate school at Michigan State University. She has been involved in many activities, including BLISS Mentor, Class Council President and Vice-President, Student Council representative, marching band, concert band, jazz band, prom committee, and the youth group at First Presbyterian Church. Jennifer has been awarded the Trustee Scholarship from Siena Heights University, the Perfect Attendance Award, Student of the Year, Honor Society, Honor Roll, and listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students. Her favorite memory at BHS is difficult as she has had so many fun memories with her friends. She feels it has been great growing up with them and being involved in their lives. She will always remember Cedar Point trips with the mentors and also Band and State Band festivals with Mr. Gumbrecht.



This year, Blissfield High School is honored to present the top ten academic students. Following is some biographical information about each student (alphabetically).



NATASHA ANN KAFER is the daughter of Jeffrey and Elizabeth Kafer. She will attend Michigan State University, Honors College, to study criminal justice and genetics. She then will further her studies in criminal forensics with a specialty in genetics. Natasha has been involved as class treasurer for four years, a BLISS Mentor for two years, clarinet section leader for two years, JV basketball her freshman year, Varsity track for four years, A/B Honor Roll every semester, and the

2007 Coming Home Court. She has also been in eight school theatre productions doing everything from stage crew and manager, to chorus, choreography and dancing. Natasha has been chosen to receive the Richard L. Germond Criminal Justice Scholarship. Several memorable moments from BHS stand out, when she was dancing for the musicals, winning her first discus competition in a dual meet, and Mr. Brink's rules for life. She also remembers every State Band Festival, every solo and ensemble competition, and all the track meets.

WADE LYNN MAY is the son of Julie and Eric May. He plans to attend the University of Michigan to pursue an electrical engineering degree. He has been listed in Who's Who of High School Students of America. Wade's favorite memory at BHS was organizing a banned t-shirt sale and learning about the dangers of trains in AP Chemistry.

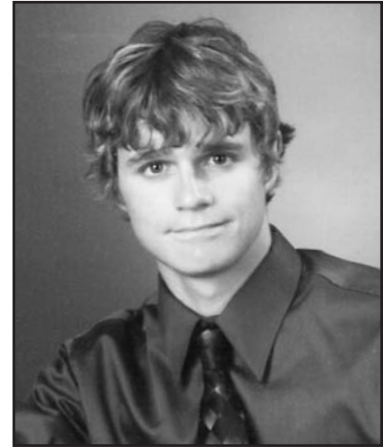


RUTH MAHEALANE NICHOLS is the daughter of Daniel and Kellie Nichols. She plans to attend Adrian College majoring in trumpet performance. She has been involved and honored in many ways at BHS including a #1 rating at state for four years in the solo and ensemble competition, Honor Thespians, NEMA semifinalist, Elizabeth Wilson Foundation scholarship, and All County Honorable mention in soccer. Ruth has also participated in varsity soccer,



school musicals and plays, Michigan Youth Ensembles, band and jazz improvisation, Adrian College Jazz Band, Motor City Brass Band and Futsal. Her favorite memories involve all those long musical rehearsals followed by a great show and the bus rides to band events with Mr. Gumbrecht.

BRANDAN WALTERS is the son of Scott and Brenda Walters. He will attend both the University of Michigan and Albion College where he will complete their dual degree program. He has played football for three years and was nominated co-captain his senior year. He also ran track all four years and was involved in Student Council where he was Representative, V.P. and President. Brandan was selected as a Junior Rotarian, participated in the BLISS Mentor program, Meals on Wheels, Caring Neighbors, Habitat for Humanity, and 4-H. He was a member of Honor Society for three years and has received the Strokes for Students Scholarship, the Distinguished Albion Award, and the Trustee Scholarship. In his "spare time," he enjoys working at Lena's. Brandan says the best part of high school is the conversation outside of lecture. The discussions between teachers and students not only provokes supplementary learning and a few laughs, but also promotes friendships between students, peers, and instructors.



ASHLEY ANN WATERBURY is the daughter of John and Marie Waterbury. She will attend Anderson University and double major in Spanish and biology with a pre-med focus. Ashley has been involved at BHS in Student Council for four years, two as secretary, soccer for four years, Honor Society for three years, BLISS Mentor for two years, PSI instructor, Junior Rotarian, and solo and ensemble competition in choir. She has been awarded the Michigan Merit Award and the Academic Honors Scholarship from Anderson University. Ashley recalls her favorite times at BHS as pizza parties during VIP with Student Council after a job well done.



"What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others."

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES-JANUARY 2007

A regular meeting of Blissfield Community Schools Board of Education was held on Monday evening, January 15, 2007 in the high school library. Seven board members were present, none absent. Also in attendance were administrators, staff and members of the public.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes of the December 11, 2006 regular meeting and the special meeting held on November 29 be accepted as presented.

A motion was made and seconded that the January bills be approved for payment as presented.

President Norris Klump acknowledged January 2007 as School Board Recognition Month. Staff and elementary students presented cards and gifts to the Board Members in appreciation for their service to the schools.

Student Council President, Brandon Walters updated the Board on Student Council activities coming up. Mike Noel updated the Board on the results of the fundraiser to benefit the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Noel also announced a new fundraiser for 2007 involving Channel 13 of Toledo Ohio. The event will include a basketball game, "pie in the face", and other activities. President Klump thanked Brandon and Mike for the update.

Superintendent Palka outlined the steps that have been taken to assess, identify and present to the Board the need to consider major capitol improvements throughout the District. CFO, Garno outlined several options available to the Board, including asking the public for an extension of the current Sinking Fund millage of 1.75.

Superintendent Palka asked the Board to consider the most recent changes being recommended by NEOLA for Board Policy Updates. The recommendations were tabled until February, 2007 to allow the Board more time to review all the Policy Updates.

A motion was made and carried to approve Tom Kasefang as the District asbestos contact person responsible for inspections and follow up paperwork.

Superintendent Palka reviewed the history involved in hiring staff for athletic positions. President Klump thanked the public for their comments on this matter.

PTO Representative, Ann Lykens provided a review of the PTO activities taking place in the district. Lykens also announced that \$10,000 was committed to a new playground at the Elementary for a two-year period. Lykens claimed that there were numerous safety concerns with the current old equipment and would like the Board to address the issue. Elementary Principal, Dee Crane explained the equipment is evaluated every 30 days for safety issues and is okay, but old. Crane also said that the fence is now in place to keep vehicles away from the playground.

A motion was made and carried to approve the Honeywell Instant Alert System for the District as long as it is only used for communications that are urgent or emergent in nature.

Principals, Mark Willson (Middle School), Jerry Johnson (High School) and Dee Crane (Elementary Principal) provided an update to the Board on the highlights of events taking place in each of their respective buildings.

KC Hufford, District Technology Supervisor, highlighted several technology initiatives being worked on throughout the District.

Tom Kasefang, Facilities Director, updated the Board on the status of several projects in the District.

CFO, Daniel Garno updated the Board on possible funding changes in State Aid per pupil being considered at the State of Michigan Level.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES-FEBRUARY 2007

A regular meeting of Blissfield Community Schools Board of Education was held on Monday evening, February 12, 2007 in the high school library. Six board members were present, one member was absent. Also in attendance were administrators, staff and members of the public.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes of the January 15, 2007 regular meeting and the special meeting/workshop held on January 8th and February 5th be accepted as presented.

A motion was made and seconded that the February bills be approved for payment as presented.

President Norris Klump acknowledged February 12-16th as School Principal's Week. Both President Klump and Superintendent Palka praised the building Principals for their dedication, hard work and commitment to educate our students.

Student Council President, Brandon Walters updated the Board on Student Council activities coming up.

President Klump asked Athletic Director, Steve Babbitt to review the guidelines developed recently for hiring Varsity coaches. After continued discussion, a motion was made and carried to adopt the Varsity Coach Hiring Policy as recommended.

A motion was made and carried to authorize Elementary Principal, Dee Crane to hold a parent meeting to get input on the idea of all-day kindergarten programs and other ideas or options.

A motion was made and carried to purchase new high school World History textbooks.

A motion was made and carried to approve all the recommended NEOLA policy changes.

President Klump introduced Doug Mattson, Director of Operations of Quality Driver Training. Mattson presented the Board the details of how Quality Driver Training could provide driver education to Blissfield students while continuing to keep many benefits including employing the same teachers. CFO, Garno will meet with officials of Quality Driver Training to discuss further details.

President Klump asked Superintendent Palka to update the Board on the progress of studying the needs for building improvements and any related Sinking Fund Levy options.

Principals, Mark Willson (Middle School), Jerry Johnson (High School) and Dee Crane (Elementary Principal) provided an update to the Board on the highlights of events taking place in each of their respective buildings.

Cris Rupp, Transportation Director presented bids to purchase two busses. A motion was made and carried to approve the purchase of the busses as recommended.

Tom Kasefang, Facilities Director, updated the Board on the status of several projects in the District such as the construction of tennis courts by the Village and possible construction of a building to be used by several sports such as baseball, softball, track, etc.

CFO, Daniel Garno reviewed the cost containment measures currently being worked on to balance the 2006-07 budget. Garno briefly reviewed some of the terms of Governor Granholm's budget proposal at the State level, which included the possibility of additional funding for all-day kindergarten programs.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize Superintendent Palka to negotiate a Limited Bargaining Agreement to present to the Board for approval to begin negotiations of a new Collective Bargaining Agreement with the BEA to replace the existing agreement due to expire August 2007.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES-MARCH 2007

A regular meeting of Blissfield Community Schools Board of Education was held on Monday evening, March 12, 2007 in the high school library. Six board members were present, one member was absent. Also in attendance were administrators, staff and members of the public.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes of the February 12, 2007 regular meeting accepted as presented.

A motion was made and seconded that the March bills be approved for payment as presented.

CFO Garno reviewed the proposed budget amendment for the General Fund. Garno explained several of the major revenue and expenditure items that changed since the original budget. President Klump thanked everyone around the District for their efforts to keep the District financially strong during difficult times.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed General Fund budget amendment.

Student Council President, Brandon Walters updated the Board on Student Council activities coming up. Elementary Principal, Dee Crane outlined the steps taken to arrive at the recommendation for a new kindergarten program. Because there is still strong support to maintain a half-day kindergarten, Crane recommended that choices be offered to parents for either half-day or full-day.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the kindergarten program as presented by Dee Crane.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the volunteer coaches for spring sports.

Public comments were made on deciding whether or not to use PESG, a third party employer to employ substitute teachers. Several members of the public also asked questions about the new kindergarten program. President Klump thanked them for their comments.

KC Hufford, Technology Director updated the Board on technology initiatives and invited all Board members to participate in the pie and memory game that will take place at the Elementary building.

Tom Kasefang, Facilities Director, updated the Board on some of the cost saving measures being taken to save the District money with various facilities and maintenance projects.

CFO, Daniel Garno outlined the financial benefits and/or challenges for the District and substitute teachers if the District agrees to use PESG to employ substitute teachers. Palka indicated that all eleven School Districts in Lenawee County will be employing PESG through the LISD and that not joining the other Districts would severely limit Blissfield's pool of substitute teachers and support from the LISD.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Prom 2007

The Blissfield High School Junior-Senior Prom was held on April 21, 2007, at LaRoy's Hall on Telegraph Rd. from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. The candidates for prom king and queen were Mackensie Beckey, Danika Fritz, Kelsey Rose, Callie Slomski, Cote LaVoy, Wade May, Derek Seeburger, and Josh Villegas. The theme this year was "An Evening Under the Stars." Congratulations to Callie and Josh who were voted Prom Queen and King. Thank you to all students who helped to decorate, Ms. Walkowe for her guidance, and family and friends in the community who helped to make the prom such a success.

Another successful After Prom thanks to many!

On Sunday morning at 12:30 a.m., Blissfield High School came alive with students. It was time for After Prom 2007, "Set Sail for Port Royale." The students were welcomed into an old village scene, complete with shops, pirates, villagers, etc. As they progressed down the village street, (the main hallway), they were drawn into the game room (the gym) where they could participate in many activities; including the Obstacle Course, the Cash Cube, Human Bowling, the Bungee Run, Human Foosball, and casino games. Caricature artists were drawing pictures and a photographer was taking pictures with Lucy, a live cockatiel. Upon returning to the village street, a tattoo parlor was offering temporary tattoos and the dining saloon was offering free food. Besides all of this, awesome prizes were awarded every five minutes to those in attendance. It was a night of fun with friends for Blissfield juniors, seniors and their guests.

The After Prom Committee would like to thank Blissfield Community Schools for allowing us to use the high school, the parents for their financial support and donation of prizes, the generous business community of Blissfield and surrounding area for their financial support and donation of prizes and the 216 students who came to After Prom. You students are why we do it.

Forensics News...

The Forensics Team competed in their first competition on Tuesday, April 17, 2007, at Adrian College. The Forensics competitions are county wide with our students facing students from Adrian, Lenawee Christian, Hudson, and Sand Creek. Right away, people are already thinking that the kids went and studied dead bodies like forensics on CSI, but it's a different thing altogether. Forensics is actually a Public Speaking format that includes various forms of dramatic, persuasive, and informative speeches. Students who participate may enter competitions for monologues, duos, group performances, poetry reading, informative, and persuasive speeches. The BHS students did an amazing job at their first competition and took home many awards. Erica DeVantier placed 1st with her persuasive speech and 2nd with her informative speech. Steven Cozzens placed 3rd in the informative speech competition. Ashley Waterbury placed 3rd with her persuasive speech. Cody Raich and Alex Mitchell placed 1st with their humorous duo. Dustin Brown and Brad Strang placed 3rd with their "Who's on First?" humorous duo. Ashley Waterbury and Callie Slomski placed 3rd with their dramatic duo. The students returned to compete in the tournament on Tuesday, May 1. The competition took place at Adrian College's Caine Student Center.

THE BLISSFIELD
COMMUNICATOR

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BLISSFIELD, MI
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POSTAL PATRON

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew Schroeder, Secretary