



# THE BLISSFIELD COMMUNICATOR

Spring 2006 Issue

A Publication of Blissfield Community Schools

## *From the Superintendent*

The North Central Association (NCA) recently announced that Blissfield Elementary School, Blissfield Middle School, and Blissfield High School were awarded school improvement honors by completing a five year, eight-phase improvement process. All three buildings earned the Outcomes Endorsement. Receiving the Outcomes Endorsement marks a period of significant achievement. It is the dedicated work of everyone in the school community who contributes to the successful conclusion of an endorsement cycle.

In addition to meeting the traditional accreditation standards of teacher preparation and number of instructional hours, the three schools have adopted a school improvement approach that requires a new level of accountability. Administrators and staff make a commitment to implement a plan of continuous effort to improve student performance in selected areas. The documentation of results throughout this demanding improvement cycle reveals the effectiveness of the plan.

A vital component to the overall evaluation process is peer review. Each of the schools in the Blissfield Community Schools has been successful in demonstrating to the visiting peer review teams that students are indeed performing better in the selected target areas than they were before the process was implemented.

“The NCA school improvement process demands more of schools than any other change process,” said Michigan NCA State Director, Mr. Michael Bugenski. “Schools must document that their efforts improved achievement for all students.”

The report from the final visit of the peer review team resulted in a recommendation of each of the Blissfield schools for endorsement to the Michigan NCA State Committee. This committee reviewed the documentation from all of the schools’ report, and, upon their approval, awarded the school improvement honor of Outcomes Accreditation.

Congratulations to the staff and administration of Blissfield Elementary, Blissfield Middle School, and Blissfield High School for their hard work, dedication, and exemplary efforts which this Outcomes Accreditation honor represents and in helping our students become even more successful in Blissfield Community Schools.

Educationally yours,

*Paul Palka*



## *8th Grade video yearbook coming soon...*

The 2006 version of the video yearbook is currently in production. One DVD will have sports highlights from football, girls and boys basketball, cheerleading, volleyball, wrestling, and track. The other will contain commercial spots from the Video Production classes, this year’s camp video, and the slide show which will debut on June 2<sup>nd</sup> during 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors.

The complete 2-DVD set will be available for purchase on



## *Congratulations Class of 2006!*

*The Community is invited to attend the celebrations of Baccalaureate on Thursday, May 25 at 7 p.m. and the Graduation Ceremony Friday, May 26 at 7 p.m.*

## *Principal for a day!*

A winning ticket at Blissfield Elementary School’s Family Reading Night Basketball Raffle earned Jacob Clark, third grade student in Mrs. Wilson’s class, the opportunity to be “Principal of the Day.” On Tuesday, April 11, Mr. Clark assumed his full-day responsibilities as principal. He spent his day making announcements, supervising students in the hallways and lunchroom, observing classroom lessons, and answering the many requests made by students, teachers, and parents. Mr. Clark said, “being principal is really fun, but I didn’t know you had to do so much walking!”



Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the eighth grade honors program. Cost will be \$20. If you wish to reserve a copy, please call 486-4420 Ext 4310 and leave your name and your eighth grader’s name. You may also stop by the office with your check made out to Blissfield Middle School.

This video is made possible through the acts of the Video Production class and grants from the Blissfield Foundation for Educational Excellence.

# Elementary School News



## Talented 3rd Graders

Students in Ms. Broderick's 3rd grade class were able to show-off their talents by giving How-To Reports to their classmates. Some talents and interests included: cutting glass, making fruit smoothies, making jewelry, baking, demonstrating archery and many more interesting topics.

## Focus on careers

"Follow Your Dreams" Day on May 3 was the culmination of many career awareness activities in the Blissfield Elementary School. Teachers teamed up to make this a worthwhile experience for K-5 students. In addition to field trips, speakers and lessons in the classrooms, Craig Emery, Technology Educator, promoted career awareness using either PAWS or Bridges, programs purchased with Career Prep funds. A special services team: Jayne Gorski, chair, and members Kym Morrison, Dianne Cory, Rhea Mills, Nate Sears, Alyssa Gorski developed the plan. Mrs. Morrison visited K-2 classes to introduce students to the activity and poster competition. Nicole LaJiness developed the Dream Kid Posters and infused them into her art classes, where many students also watched career videos. Each K-5 student chose a career and decorated his or her poster kid by depicting their career, adding clothing and tools of the trade.

Classroom teachers then had students write why they had chosen those careers. By May 2, Dream Kids Posters were on display outside each classroom, and on May 3, special service teachers, including Connie Graf, Nancy Blow and Brian Barrus, as well as those teachers noted previously, selected a winner for each classroom. The winners received T-shirts, and all participants received certificates. The purpose was to pique career interests and awareness in BES students.

## 2nd Grade musical informs

One of the classrooms families visited during Family Reading night at the elementary building on March 14, 2006 was Mrs. Hibdon's room where second-graders performed the mini-musical, "Roof Repairs". This musical was a teaching drama for young and old alike, to reinforce the value of talking out problems with friends when problems cause discouragement and our "roof" starts to leak". Also, the message was sent to be a good friend to those with problems, as well.



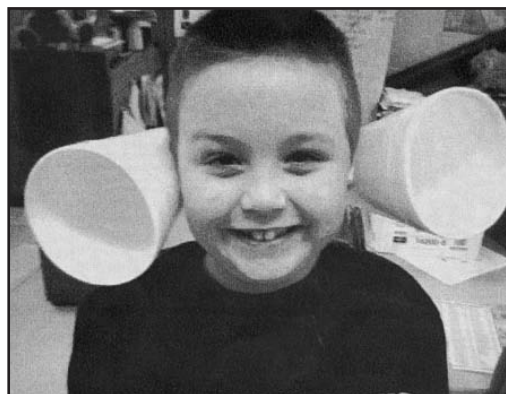
## ELEMENTARY CALENDAR

May 1.....	3rd grade trip to Blissfield State Bank Kindergarten Music Programs (A.M. at 6 p.m.; P.M. at 7 p.m.)
May 2.....	School Election – Elementary School Library 1st and 3rd Grade Music Programs (1st at 6 p.m.; 3rd at 7 p.m.)
May 3.....	Paul McCormack presents to 2nd grade
May 4.....	4th and 5th Grade Music Programs (4th at 6 p.m.; 5th at 7 p.m.)
May 5.....	Grandparents' Day (3rd grade) 4th grade visits Lenawee County Courthouse
May 10.....	Half-day in-service (students dismissed at 11:00 a.m.; afternoon kindergarten will meet; no morning kindergarten)
May 12.....	2nd grade visits Toledo Zoo (9:15 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.); Kindergarten field trip to Blissfield Railroad (a.m. & p.m. here all day!)
May 15 & 18..	Vision and Hearing Screening, grades K-3
May 16.....	5th grade transition visit to Middle School
May 17.....	Ag Day
May 19.....	3rd grade trip to Sauder's Farm and Museum Mrs. Reinhardt's class visits the VA Hospital
May 22-23...	Mackinaw Kite Company assembly for K-5 students
May 29.....	Memorial Day – no school
May 30.....	Purple and Gold Day; School Picnic
May 31.....	Rain date for Purple/Gold Day & School Picnic
June 2.....	Last day for students

## 2nd Grade eye dissection

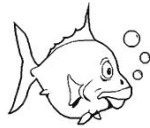


On February 8, 2006, second-grade students enjoyed the hands-on experience of studying sheep eyes in order to appreciate the parts of the human eye, as part of a science unit on the attributes of light and the process of sight. Terri Langton, from the Monroe ISD brought a sheep eye for every second-grader to dissect and identify the parts. She also gave instructions for protecting sight and staying away from taking harmful drugs. It was an eye-opening, good experience for students and parent volunteers alike.



*Garrett Whitlow demonstrates what he learned in a lesson on sound and ears in Mill's second grade class about how the size and shape of ears affects sound and hearing.*

## Our wonderful world of water



Thanks to a generous grant from The Sage Foundation, our fourth graders were recently treated to a program called "Our Wonderful World of Water." This was presented by certified teachers from The Dahlem Conservancy. Each of the four classrooms became mini-science labs and the students moved from room to room to participate in discovery activities. During the hands on "Pour-a-Pond" session, students were able to observe and handle the organisms found in aquatic environments. They saw the effects of pollutants in our ground water with the Ground Water Model and were introduced to some new science vocabulary. In another lab, students used the Scientific Method as they set up and observed first hand the impact of a common household product on a living thing. With the use of a Watershed Model, our last presenter demonstrated how our daily activities affect water quality. It was a fun and creative way to learn so many interesting things about our wonderful world of water.



## Kindergarten count-down



The final days of Kindergarten are upon us. We are winding down with instruction and putting the final touches on our education with that last push. The students have been very busy with assessments and year-end testing. They have all done very well, too! We had an exciting month of March with many guest readers and parents in our classroom. We were very excited to have Superintendent Paul Palka and Superintendent Kyle Griffith (from Morenci Schools) come in and read to

us. Each of them brought with them their special excitement for reading and we really appreciated that. Spring fever has hit our classroom and it came at a good time. We are discussing the four seasons in science and all the 'spring' around us has helped. Our math unit is almost done and we have turned into very good mathematicians. We have worked past 100 and continue to add up our days together. We finally finished up our students of the week and now each of us gets a turn to take Traveling Teddy home for the night. We have become independent writers so we can write in Teddy's journal about his adventures and share it with the class. May will bring us to our 'finals' – our final field trip, our final special service project, and our final report card. We will be taking a walking field trip to the railroad museum and train depot. We will be putting together some Veteran goodie bags for the hospital in Ann Arbor to celebrate Memorial Day. Ms. Reinhart's class will be delivering them for us. And we will be doing our last assessments for report cards. All these activities will take us to the end of our school year. These kindergarteners have grown into wonderful students – they are very responsible and respectful – and Mrs. Mueller is going to have a hard time saying her 'final' good bye!



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## Librarian for the day

Emily Binns, daughter of Jim and Laura Binns, was "Librarian for the Day." She spent the day with Mrs. Graf, the elementary librarian, checking in and checking out books, choosing new books, reading to classes and doing clerical duties. Emily says, "My favorite thing I did was check out books for people." Emily's ticket was chosen at the Gift Basket Raffle held the night of Family Reading Night. Emily hopes to grow up to be a paleontologist. Maybe she'll change her mind.

# Elementary School News

## March readers entertain



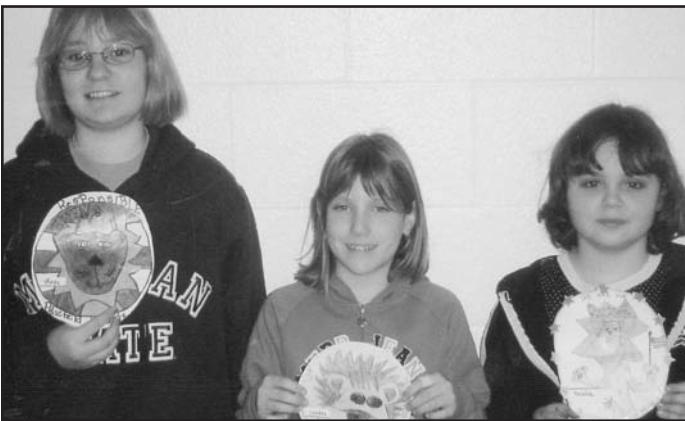
Mrs. Raines, aka, The Cat In The Hat, came to read to the second grade classrooms to help celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss of March 2.



Rudy Mirelez reads two fairy tales in English and Spanish to Mrs. Mills second grade class during March is Reading month.

## Students design coat of arms

Mrs. Reinhardt's fourth grade students recently had a competition to design a Blissfield Elementary School Coat of Arms. They also decided to design their own person seal after studying Michigan's state seal.



Pictured are the winners (left to right): Grand Prize Winner: Devon Bostick; First Runner Up: Cheyanne Brown; Second Runner Up: Ashlee McLain. Congratulations to all the students!

## 2nd Grade pen pals

Mrs. Seidl's class has pen pals in Deerfield. LeeAnn Seidl is shown here with her heart that she received from her pen pal, Kegan. Every month, Mrs. Seidl's students write a letter to their Deerfield pen pals and they write back. It has been fun writing about all the different holidays and activities that have occurred between the two classes. Mrs. Segur teaches second grade in Deerfield and has also been writing to Mrs. Seidl. In May, there will be a meeting between the pen pals with a shared lunch in the park. Everyone is looking forward to that event. Many teaching tips and curriculum ideas have been learned through sharing in this experience.



## PTO NEWS...

Though our attendance averaged about 8 parents per meeting, it was still an exciting school year for the Parent Teacher Organization! Thanks to local supporters and parents, the PTO raised enough money to sponsor events such as bringing a well-known Michigan author, Kathy-Jo Wargin, to our school for a day. Other funded projects included: the Toledo Symphony demonstration; buying food for Family Reading Night; Family Movie Night; Popcorn Fridays; Family Fun Night; Dads-N-Donuts; Morning-With-Mom; the Ice Cream "Scoop" at Open House; AR awards (grades 3-5); Birthday Books (for all K-2 students); and staff appreciation programs. As we wind down, we're planning one last fundraiser to help replenish our account for next year; it's a special one-time purchasing program through Schwann's, and information packets will be coming home soon.

Our goals for next year include starting a fund for a "big ticket" item to be determined by our members at our final meeting of the school year on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Elementary library. Some ideas have already been kicked around including the purchase of classroom "smart boards," or a mobile computer lab. Plans are already underway to determine the feasibility of funding a playground project to replace all the outdated equipment used by our K-5 students, and we hope to continue forward with such a worthwhile project.

It has been a thrill and an honor to support our staff and students through various activities and events this year; we hope to see more parents at future PTO meetings during the 2006-2007 year. The meetings will no longer be held on Wednesday evenings (to avoid conflict with other family activities), and the new meeting dates will be announced next fall.

In the meantime, the PTO will host a final staff appreciation luncheon on Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, for all 62 BES employees who have supported our students and our school throughout the year. (If you would like to donate a special gift to this event, please call Tracy Strouse at 486-3691).

## Trash Bash 2006

Friday, April 21, the four first grade classes set out for their annual "Trash Bash." The students and their teachers collected bags of trash from the school grounds. This is an annual event participated in every Earth Day to share in the responsibility of keeping the earth clean for everyone.



Sawyer Beard, Connor Duval and Abby Bischoff carrying a large load of trash collected from the school grounds



Andrew Smith and Caleb Bangerter help fill the dumpster

## 7th Grade solar cookout

Students in the seventh grade will be participating in a solar cookout on Friday, May 19. The cookout is the culmination of a science project in Mr. Thompson's room. This project 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 whole process. The project is a fun way to help develop many traits, such as planning, cooperation, meeting deadlines, and creativity. It is always a fun day. The students will also be doing a walking tour of our 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.

# Thank You!

The Blissfield Middle School would like to thank Mr. Gary Kastel and the Blissfield Kiwanis organization for purchasing each seventh grade student, in the class of 109 students, his or her own thesaurus. These reference guides used to look up word synonyms are greatly appreciated and will be a big help in the writing process. We feel fortunate to live in a community that values education. Thank you again.

## Blissfield Middle School students help fight heart disease

On April 13<sup>th</sup> Blissfield high school sophomore, Kelsey Knoblauch, visited the middle school students and shared a very touching story about how heart disease has affected her life. Kelsey and her brother Kevin were both diagnosed with Brugada Syndrome, a rare genetic heart disease that can cause sudden cardiac arrest. Both Kelsey and Kevin live with heart defibrillators. Kelsey, Kevin, and another brother Kyle all lost their mother Kim to the disease in August of 2002.



At the end of the visit, students had an opportunity to ask questions of Kelsey and her father Alan. They were also reminded that heart disease and stroke are the leading cause of death in the United States. While the disease that the Knoblauch family has is genetic, there are many other heart diseases and risks that can be reduced through lifestyle choices.

Following Kelsey's presentation, students received materials for the school's second annual "HOOPS FOR HEART" fundraiser event. In a two week time period, students raised \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in donations from family and friends, and another \$ \_\_\_\_\_ was raised in miscellaneous incentive donations within the school.

When all donations were collected, students celebrated their success with a special "HOOPS FOR HEART" activity day on April 27th. Extra time was built into the school day's schedule to participate in a variety of fun activities including playing volleyball, kick-

### MIDDLE SCHOOL CALENDAR

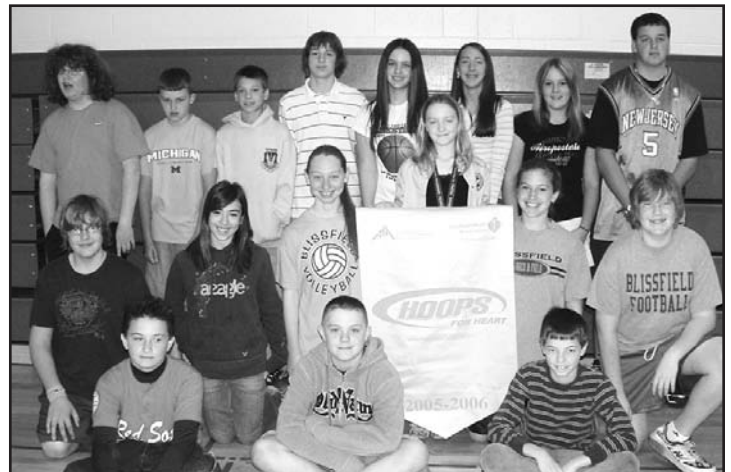
May 8-12.....	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 9.....	6th grade to Lenawee Christian Family Center 8th grade Career Day
May 10.....	Half day Staff In-service; Students released at 10:55 a.m.
May 11.....	Fine Arts Show 7:00 p.m.; 7th grade to Mud Hens game
May 16.....	5th grade to BMS for orientation
May 17.....	Payback for Education
May 19.....	7th grade solar cookout
May 22.....	School picnic during lunches; 8th grade U.S. History - Civil War Camp
May 23.....	Rain date for school picnic
May 24-26...	8th Grade Camp
May 29.....	No School – Memorial Day
June 1-2.....	Exams
June 5-6.....	Teachers in session

## 7th Grade News

During their science classes, seventh grade students have just completed a course called Postponing Sexual Involvement (PSI). Beth Abbott, a certified counselor and teacher, who is a clinical supervisor at the Catherine Cobb Violence Domestic Shelter, was the instructor. Eleven high school students aided Beth in the instruction, and added positive role models for the seventh grade students to relate to. Beth, a graduate of Blissfield Schools, has been directing this program for the past eight years. The program is abstinence based and provides instruction in making good choices, along with ways to communicate those choices to others who might be creating peer pressure to influence behavior.

ball, walking, jogging on the track, and of course, shooting HOOPS. The same day, after school, Student Council put on a dance. Student Council donated the profits from the dance to the AHA as well. All funds collected combined for a total contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the American Heart Association. These funds help finance continued research and education for heart health.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the success of this event.



# Middle School News



## 8th Grade Outdoor Adventure

“Reliving Our Roots...An 1800 Experience”



### ATTENTION ALL BRAVE CAMPERS!!!!!!

The excitement builds for 8th grade camp 2006. 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, May 24th. 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 26TH. YOU MUST HAVE A RIDE HERE!!!  
YOU CANNOT RIDE THE BUS HOME WITH YOUR CAMPING SUPPLIES.**

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

##### **Bedding**

- Pillowcase (fill with clothes for pillow)
- Sleeping bag
- Cheap “Pool Type Air Mattress” (Optional)

##### **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 24<sup>th</sup>  
Bring Cookies  
Bring Sack Lunch  
Drop off any meds to office  
Have a ride here at 12:45 Friday the 26<sup>th</sup>

## Vo-Tech students excel

Congratulations to the following students who were Vo-Tech Work Habits Award winners for the past marking periods. In order to qualify for the award, students must exhibit excellent work habits. Positive work habits are a key component of the Vo-Tech curriculum consisting 40% of the students' grades. These students have demonstrated responsibility and dependability, and a positive attitude toward work. Excellence in additional work habits include initiative and effort, efficiency, cooperation, safety and the ability to follow directions.

Blissfield's honored students include Randy Warner, Jr., Jonathan Harbeck, Jack Miller, Kyle Woods, Amanda Fisher, Jacqueline Pruitt, Larissa Woodward, Alex Garza, Joshua Orel, Dustin Holubik, Nichole Villegas, Matt Hudson, Ashley Fowler, Katy Smith, Zachary Pawson, Skip Patteuw, William Kimbrell, Ashley Loader, Ross Reyome, Elizabeth Orner, and Russell Decatur. Good work, students!

## Prom 2006

The Blissfield High School Junior-Senior Prom was held on April 29, 2006, at Memories Hall on Lewis Avenue from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. The candidates for prom king and queen were Ashley Albright, Carrie Hernandez, Aly Marchal, Jacqueline Pruitt, Trevor Klump, Ryan Haupricht, Will Faulkner, and Andrew Ford. The theme this year was "The Secret Garden." 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.



## After Prom 2006

After Prom 2006 is but a memory, a memory that will last a lifetime for those Blissfield juniors, seniors and their guests who attended following the prom. The theme for this year's event was "Livin' in the Wild, Wild West." Students had the opportunity to ride a Mechanical Bull, race on the Bungee Run, play a game of Laser Tag, compete in a friendly game of Euchre and other card games, eat food and win incredible prizes, all for free. This all happened because a group of parents wanted to provide a safe, drug-free, chaperoned, fun party for the juniors and seniors of Blissfield High School. Parents got a tremendous amount of support and financial assistance from the local community and businesses. The success of After Prom 2006 is a credit to the parents, the school, the businesses and the community of Blissfield. Thanks to everyone who helped to make After Prom a night to remember.

## HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

May 10.....	Half day In-service; Students released at 10:55 a.m.
May 12.....	Mentors and Mentees to Cedar Point
May 16.....	Senior meeting during VIP; Picnic Lunch during lunch hours; Fine Arts Festival
May 18.....	FFA Banquet 6:30 p.m.
May 19.....	Senior exams
May 23.....	Service Learning Day; Academic Honors Awards 7:00 p.m.
May 25.....	Senior breakfast 8:00 a.m.; Baccalaureate 7:00 p.m.
May 26.....	Commencement 7:00 p.m.
May 29.....	May 29 No School – Memorial Day
June 1-2.....	Final exams
June 5.....	Teacher Records Day; Spring Sports Awards 7:00 p.m.
June 6.....	Teacher In-service

## Well done, Emily Miller

On Saturday, April 29, 2006, fifteen-year-old Emily Miller was honored as the youngest person in Michigan history to "adopt" a Civil War battle flag. In a ceremony attended by state legislators and officials, educators, Civil War historians and re-enactors, family and friends, Emily presented Michigan's "Save the Flags" project with a check for \$1,000, money she raised entirely on her own by giving talks, selling Civil War memorabilia, and collecting donations at various events. The state project is dedicated to preserving Michigan's collection of historic battle flags, including more than 160 rare and bullet-torn banners carried by Michigan volunteers during the Civil War. Emily's ancestor, Ira Wilson, fought in the Civil War, and she chose to adopt a battle flag carried by the First Michigan Engineers and Mechanics Regiment in honor of her ancestor who fought and died in 1862. Involved with her parents since 1997 in Civil War reenactments, Emily's love for Michigan history inspired her to contribute to the preservation and adoption of the flag in order to educate others.

*"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."*

*~ Ralph Waldo Emerson*

# TOP TEN STUDENTS HONORED



**Andrew Paul Estes**, the son of Ronald and Susie Estes, plans on attending Oakland University where he will play baseball while studying in a health and wellness career field. During his years at BHS, Andrew was named to the first team All-State in baseball, honorable mention All-State in football and All-League in basketball. He has been awarded an athletic scholarship to attend Oakland. His favorite memory at BHS is going unde-

feated in football in his senior year and winning the first league title in over thirty years.

**Emily Marie Harrigan** is the daughter of Lori Harrigan and Steve Harrigan. She will attend Western Michigan University majoring in biology. While at BHS, Emily was active in Students and Class Council, basketball, BLISS mentoring program, Lenawee Youth Council, and received the Michigan Merit Award. Going to football and baseball games, volleyball state competition, and hanging out with friends are her favorite memories.



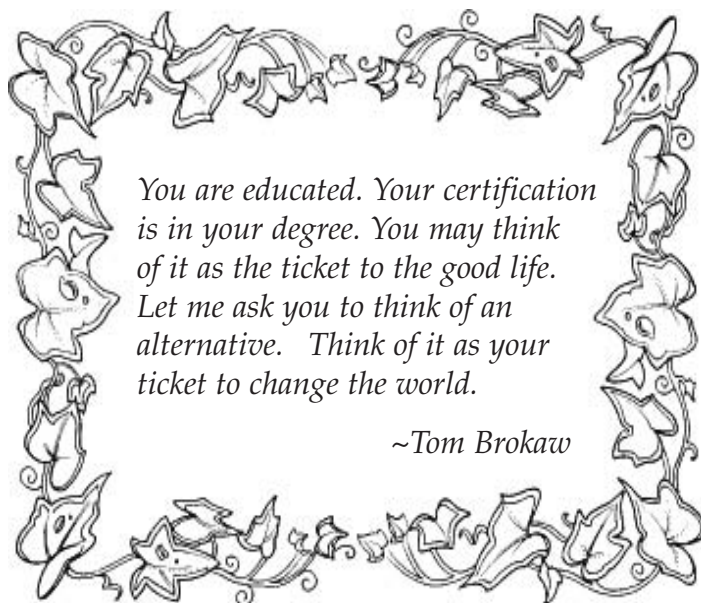
**Amy Joelle Leader**, the daughter of Kerwin and Mary Ann Leader, will attend Eastern Michigan University in the fall to study nursing. While at BHS, Amy served as senior chairperson of the BLISS mentoring program and was active in band, jazz band, choir, Thespian Society (V.P.), Homecoming queen, Honor Society, PSI (Postponing Sexual Involvement), Student of the Week, Jr. Rotarian, Science Fair, Red Cross blood drive donor, solo and ensemble competition, plays, musicals,

County Honors Band, County Honors Jazz Band, morning announcements reader, Yearbook editor, Meals on Wheels, and is a recipient of Eastern Michigan University's "Recognition for Academic Excellence" scholarship. In addition to morning announcements and Channel One, Amy thoroughly enjoyed great moments in classes blurring out random things, getting to build friendships with awesome teachers, and making friends with everyone in school. Most of all, she enjoys the weight she's lost from laughing hysterically every day.

**James Frederick McClenathen** is the son of Dean and Rebecca McClenathen and will attend the University of Michigan in the fall in the area of pre-medicine. James has earned honors with the National English Merit Award, the Excellent Musician Award, Michigan Merit Award, Honors Band, and Junior Rotarian. He has also served as the co-captain of the varsity football team and participated in track. Being part of the first Blissfield football team to win a league championship in thirty years was a highlight of his school career.



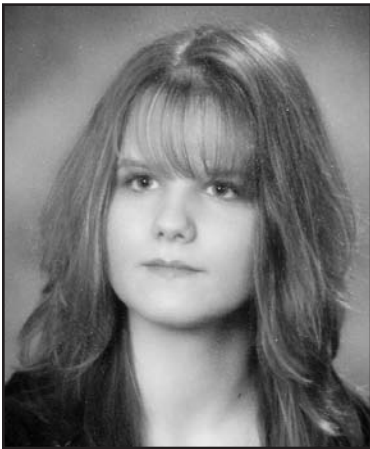
**Sara Jo Mitchell**, the daughter of Paul and JoDee Friess and John Mitchell, will attend Western Michigan University in the fall. She has served in Student Council, the BLISS Mentoring program and was the Senior Class vice-president. Sara has been awarded the Michigan Merit Award and the WMU Deans' Scholarship. Her favorite memories include baseball and football games, volleyball state competition, having great teachers, and hanging out with her friends.



*You are educated. Your certification is in your degree. You may think of it as the ticket to the good life. Let me ask you to think of an alternative. Think of it as your ticket to change the world.*

*~Tom Brokaw*

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



**Lauryn Alysa Navarre** is the daughter of Gerald and Gloria Navarre. She plans to attend Eastern Michigan University and major in English Language and Literature. Lauryn served as tenth grade class representative, eleventh and twelfth grade Student Council treasurer, Prom Committee, BLISS mentor, and Honor Society. She has been awarded with the DAR Good Citizens Award and the Academic Excellence Award.

Her favorite memory at Blissfield Schools is when she went to Cedar Point with her mentee and friends in the BLISS Mentor program.



**Stephanie Sablich** is the daughter of Michael Sablich and Theresa VanDaele Sablich. She will be attending Anderson University to seek a dual degree in elementary education and Christian ministry within the honors program. Stephanie has been active in the concert and marching bands, the BLISS Mentor program, and the Blissfield Honor Society. She has been honored with the National English Merit Award, Academic Honors

Competitive Scholarship from Anderson University, various individual class awards, and was listed in *Who's Who Among American High School Students*.

**Jacqueline Marie Pruitt**, the daughter of Jacque and Mary Pruitt, will attend Lourdes College for her pre-requisites and then transfer to the University of Findlay to earn a degree as a physician's assistant. Jacqueline has been involved with the BLISS Mentor program, Class and Student Council, and also the athletic program. She has been on the honor roll throughout her high school career and a member of the Honor Society for three years. She has earned the Work Habits Award for two quarters at Vo-Tech and also the Academic Excellence Award. Jacqueline has received the Marathon Pipeline, Allen H. Meyers, and the Gleaners scholarships. Her favorite memory and most unforgettable moment would have to be the first day of school this year, because I knew I would be graduating more quickly than I thought. I was completely excited to feel like a senior and take on all the tasks of colleges, more homework, and the week of graduation.



**Lori Leigh Segur**, the daughter of Rod and Lisa Segur, will attend Indiana Wesleyan University in the fall to major in nursing. She has been active in band, varsity soccer (captain), First UB Church Youth Group, Honor Society, Palmyra Future Leaders 4-H Club (treasurer), BLISS Mentor program, and Lenawee County Honors Band. She has received La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux Scholarship and the Allen H and Nydia Meyers Foundation Scholarship. Her favorite memory at BHS is Mr. Brink's memorable stories and life lessons.



**Emily Joy Zimmerman** is the daughter of Gary and Brenda Zimmerman. She will attend the University of Michigan in the fall to major in business. She has been involved in cheerleading, soccer, plays, musicals, the Thespian Society, football stat girl, Blissfield Honor Society, honor roll, and has been recognized in *Who's Who Among American High School Students*. Spending time with her friends, attending sporting events, and



VIP's in Mr. Estes' room are among her favorite memories.

*There is no need to reach  
high for the stars.  
They are already within you -  
just reach deep into yourself!*

*~Anonymous*

# High School News

## NEWS FROM BHS COUNSELING & CAREER CENTER

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

### **Scheduling**

BHS scheduling is completed for next year. Thanks to the staff and students to make this as painless as possible.

### **Scholarships**

The Scholarship deadline has passed. The latest deadline was March 31<sup>st</sup>. 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:

Your child must graduate from Blissfield Community Schools.

Continued advances of \$1000 per college semester will continue as long as your child maintains a minimum grade point average of C or above.

12 credit hours or more must be maintained to receive continued advances.

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 at Blissfield Community Schools (517) 486-2205.

\*\* If your son/daughter is planning on attending college and is in need of financial support, please feel free to call Cheryl Bausman, Counselor, at (517) 486-2148 ext. 217.

### **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, 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 2007-2008 school year, should take the April, June, October, or December 2006 ACT Assessment test. ACT registration packets are available in the CCC.

### **Summer School at Lenawee Vo-Tech**

Summer applications for Lenawee Bo-Tech are now available in the CCC. The dates are June 13<sup>th</sup> through July 1<sup>st</sup>. Classes meet daily from 8:00am-12:20pm. 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, auto service technology, building trades, computer information services, child care, drafting/CAD, graphic imagining, healthcare careers, 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 AHS**

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

### **Summer School at THS**

Summer school applications for Tecumseh High School will be available in the CCC. The fee is \$130.00. For more information, please call 423-9644.

### **MEAP/HST Testing**

Testing for MEAP/HST took place April 5 – April 15 in the high school for all the juniors who had not yet tested. Students who score a 1 or 2 in all areas (math, English reading and writing, and science), except social studies, will be eligible for The State of Michigan Merit Awards for post-secondary study. Awards are not only based on scores but also community service. 40 hours of community service must be documented in order to receive the award. Opportunities for community service can be found by calling the local United Way office or Chamber of Commerce. Other changes to The Michigan Merit Award are pending.

### **College Applications**

Current BHS juniors, soon to be seniors, are reminded to submit their college applications as soon as possible this coming fall 2006. 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 2007 school year beginning September 1, 2006.

## NEWS FROM BHS COUNSELING & CAREER CENTER

### 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 2006. More information will follow.

### Dual Enrollment

Next year's juniors and seniors will soon 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. It would be in your best interest not to wait until the last minute so Mrs. Bausman will have enough time to be available to help you, if needed.

## 10 TIPS FOR PARENTS OF PROSPECTIVE COLLEGE STUDENTS

BY MARCIA B. HARRIS AND SHARON L. JONES • POSTED ON WWW.JOBWEB.COM

### 1. CHOOSING A CAREER/CHOOSING A MAJOR

Security vs. adventure. Accountant, Peace Corps volunteer, journalist, college professor. Ultimately, your son or daughter should make the choice. Of course, you may want to mention factors to consider, such as job market demand, salary ranges, long-range opportunities, skills required, etc. Just because an occupation is "hot" now does not mean it will be equally in demand in 10 years or that your child has the aptitude or motivation for it.

### 2. CHOOSING TO DOUBLE MAJOR/CHOOSING A MAJOR AND MINOR

Most employers do not place a premium on a double major. It usually requires an extra one or two semesters to obtain a second major and does not particularly enhance a student's marketability. Exceptions would be a second major or a major and minor chosen for a specific career, such as English and chemistry for technical writing, or a health policy major and business minor for hospital administration. Of course, some students may choose to double major primarily for academic/intellectual purposes.

### 3. GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

Some students who get off to a rocky start eventually pull up their grades; however, this can be very difficult to do. Advanced placement credits and study abroad courses generally do not count in the computation of a student's GPA. Some employers use GPA cutoffs in considering applicants. Other employers stress the student's overall background: experience, number of hours worked during the school year to finance college, leadership activities, etc. Encourage your son or daughter to make academics a high priority beginning with his or her freshman year. Nevertheless, it is important to remember that it may take him or her a while to adjust to the rigorous academic demands of college.

### 4. OBTAINING MARKETABLE SKILLS

Most employers today put more emphasis on graduates' skills than on their academic majors. Encourage your son or daughter to develop strengths in at least two or three of the following areas:

- \* Computer skills (e.g., programming, word processing, spreadsheets, data base management, e-mail, Internet);
- \* Quantitative skills (e.g., accounting, statistics, economics);
- \* Communication skills (e.g., written and oral);
- \* Marketing/selling skills (e.g., sales, publicity,

fundraising);

\* Scientific skills (e.g., lab skills, scientific research);

\* Foreign language skills (e.g., especially Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, or Russian);

\* Leadership skills (e.g., supervisory, extracurricular leadership roles, teamwork/team leader).

### 5. LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

Many employers rate leadership activities even more highly than GPA. Students who were very active in high school activities may be less involved in college extracurricular activities. However, employers regard high school as "ancient history" for a college senior. It is more valuable for a student to be involved in a few meaningful leadership roles on campus than to be in a "laundry list" of many campus clubs.

### 6. EXPERIENCE

You may want your son or daughter to work in his or her hometown every summer. However, the experience gained as a lifeguard or ice cream shop counter clerk does not compare to that which comes from an internship (paid or unpaid) in the career field that he or she aspires to enter. Future employers will seek graduates with relevant, real-world work experience. Some students have little to write about on a resume if their summers were spent in school, traveling, or working at low-level jobs. We strongly suggest that students seek career-related experience for their sophomore and junior summers even if they must live away from home or accept an unpaid internship. Students needing financial support can combine an unpaid internship with a paid job such as waiter/waitress, etc.

### 7. GRADUATING EARLY, GRADUATING LATE

Some students graduate early through advanced placement credits, heavy course loads, and summer school courses. The advantages are lower educational expenses and the ability to start employment or graduate school earlier. The disadvantages may include the sacrifice of academic honors, work experience, and extracurricular and volunteer activities that may contribute to a student's maturity level and qualifications. Other students graduate late due to light course loads, academic difficulties, changing majors, poor academic advising, lack of direction, or reluctance to leave the cocoon of the college environment. Advantages to late graduation include the ability to improve grades with light class loads, extra time to change majors, the ability to take additional electives to improve marketability, and extra time to

gain more career-related or leadership experience. Disadvantages to late graduation are increased college costs and possible disapproval of employers and graduate schools.

### 8. PLANNING FOR GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL

About 88 percent of the nation's college freshmen indicated in a recent survey that they plan to go to graduate or professional school, yet only about 24 percent do so within a year of completing their bachelor's degree. Students aspiring to graduate or professional school should: Be clear about the reasons they want to go on for further education; research the qualifications required for admission and be realistic about their chances of acceptance; and always have a "Plan B" or back-up plan in case they are not accepted. Students should discuss their interest in graduate or professional school well before their senior year with their academic adviser; the college's graduate or professional school adviser (e.g., the pre-law or pre-med adviser); and a college career adviser to obtain advice and guidance from three different perspectives.

### 9. TAKING TIME OFF

Many students want to take time off after college graduation from college before attending graduate school or taking a career-related job. Future employers will want to know how the student has spent the intervening time. Do activities during this period demonstrate relevance to future career goals and/or a good work ethic? While short-term travel may be personally broadening, it does not increase a student's marketability to employers unless it is seen as career related. Therefore, the time off may result in a longer job search. For example, management trainee programs, which often begin shortly after graduation and hire large numbers of new graduates, may be filled by the time your child is ready to begin a job search.

### 10. USING THE COLLEGE CAREER SERVICES OFFICE

Students should begin using their campus career office no later than their sophomore year. Virtually all career offices provide individual career counseling/advising, career planning workshops, internship assistance, and career fairs and programs—these services are specifically for underclassmen. Your son or daughter should seek help early with choosing a career and preparing for it. Competition for good jobs, particularly in certain fields, is stiff. The career office can advise students about how to become a strong candidate for their field of interest.

**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES-JAN 2006**

A regular meeting of Blissfield Community Schools Board of Education was held on Monday evening, January 9, 2006, in the high school library. Seven board members were present. Also in attendance were administrators, staff and members of the public.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes of the December 12, 2005 regular meetings were accepted as presented.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes of the December 17, 2005 special meeting were accepted as presented.

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

President Klump announced that Ogden Telephone Company had donated \$5,000 toward the purchase of new technology in classroom. Klump thanked Bausman, representative of Ogden Telephone and board member, for the generous gift.

Superintendent Palka formally recognized Board Member Recognition Month as January. Palka thanked the Board members for their time and dedication in serving the community and the school. Elementary Principal, Dee Crane, presented cards and gifts to the Board on behalf of all K-12 students and staff. Elementary students and staff created the gifts and cards.

Student Council President, Aly Marchal, updated the Board on student activities for the month.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendation for renovating the football stadium as presented by the Building and Grounds Committee.

Principals, Dee Crane and Jerry Johnson outlined many of the events taking place over the next month related to each of their buildings.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Matthew Schroeder, Secretary

**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES-FEB 2006**

A regular meeting of Blissfield Community Schools Board of Education was held on Monday evening, February 13, 2006 in the high school library. Six board members were present. One board 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 9, 2006 regular meetings were accepted as presented.

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

Student Council Member, Brandan Walters, updated the Board on student activities for the month. He included the plans to re-schedule the Snowball Dance for March 4<sup>th</sup> as well as details of the Student Council elections being planned for the 2006-07 school year.

President Klump and Superintendent Palka thanked the Principals for their dedication and hard work to foster the very best educational opportunities for our students. President Klump further proclaimed an acknowledgement from State of Michigan Governor, Jennifer Granholm, recognizing the dedication and hard work of the Principals.

Elementary teacher, Diane Cory introduced Kendra Shields and her daughter, Rachel, to speak to the Board of their experience with the Reading Recovery program. They praised the program and the rewards experienced as a result.

Superintendent Palka reviewed the proposed Policy changes with the Board regarding "the schools and governmental agencies, being recommended by NEOLA for adoption. A motion was made and seconded to accept the changes as presented.

Principals, Dee Crane and Jerry Johnson outlined many of the events taking place over the next month related to each of their buildings.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Matthew Schroeder, Secretary

**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES-MAR 2006**

A regular meeting of Blissfield Community Schools Board of Education was held on Monday evening, March 13, 2006, in the high school library. Six board members were present. One board 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 13, 2006 regular meetings were accepted as presented.

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

High School Principal, Jerry Johnson provided the Student Council

report to the Board in the absence of Student Council President, Aly Marchal. Johnson reviewed the successes of the annual Snowball dance recently held. Elections of Student Council officers for next year will be conducted soon.

President Klump presented a proposed General Fund budget for amendment as recommended by the Personnel/Finance Committee. A motion was made and seconded to amend the 2005-2006 General Fund budget as presented.

A motion was made and seconded to approve all volunteer coaches for spring 2006.

Facilities Director, Tom Kasefang, updated the Board on several Building and Grounds updates, including the tennis courts and the football stadium construction.

Principals, Dee Crane and Jerry Johnson outlined many of the events taking place over the next month related to each of their buildings.

CFO Garno presented a marketing proposal to advertise the Blissfield Community School District Student Loan Program.

Superintendent Palka announced Cheryl Bausman as full-time High School Counselor. In addition, a full-time office aide was hired to support the counseling department.

Kerwin Leader and Judy Laberde are representing the community in an effort to gain support to construct a new performing arts center on school property. President Klump and Superintendent Palka met with them on February 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss their plans to solicit community support. More updates will be provided as they are available.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Early Retirement Incentive Agreement as presented by CFO, Daniel Garno.

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  
 Bette Kohler.....Middle School Principal

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS**

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



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