



# The Aggie Express

A publication of the Beal City Public Schools

[www.edzone.net/bealcity](http://www.edzone.net/bealcity)

August 2008

## Queen for a Day

Queen for a Day – Sue Higgins, Teacher Assistant at Mayes Elementary School, had her name randomly drawn during Staff Appreciation Week in May. This entitled her to the title of Queen for a Day with PTO member Tami Chilman volunteering to do her job for the entire day. Our thanks to Tami and the PTO for recognizing Sue for the wonderful job she performs everyday.



There are four positions on the Beal City Board of Education up for election in November of 2008. Anyone interested in running for a position can stop in the Superintendent's Office to pick up nominating petitions. The Superintendent's Office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Or you can call Leon Cotter at 644-2264 to make arrangements to pick up a form from him. Nominating petitions need to be filed with Leon by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 12th.

**We will also be voting on renewing our Non-Homestead Operating Millage at the November Election. More information on the renewal will follow in future newsletters.**

## First Day of School Celebration

We would like to extend a special invitation to parents, family members, and very important adults to join us for the annual Mayes Elementary School FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL Celebration on Tuesday, September 2. This community-wide event is a chance for students to come back to school in a fun and positive manner. Moreover, adults that are important to the students can gain a better understanding of the expectations for the upcoming school year. The activities will take place from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. Classroom visits, snacks, an assembly and presentations are all a part of the festivities. Families are welcome to attend any or all of the activities as their schedule allows. We ask that visits not be made to classrooms prior to September 2, to ensure the proper preparation for this event. This celebration of the opening of the school year will again replace our Open House format. Call or stop by the Mayes Elementary School office with any questions or call 644-2740. We look forward to sharing the FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL with you!

Class lists will be posted on the front doors of Mayes Elementary School starting the week of August 11. Elementary students will also receive their class placements and supply requests in the mail by that date. If you do not receive any information by August 15, please call Mayes Elementary School at 644-2740.

# Vacation Powerbook and Summer Counts! Rewards

During the First Day of School Celebration on September 2 students or parents can redeem COMPLETED Vacation Powerbooks or Summer Counts! workbooks at the elementary school office for a reward provided by a grant. We feel students should be recognized for their diligence and hard work over the summer. Some Vacation Powerbooks and Summer Counts! workbooks at various grade levels can still be purchased from the Mayes Elementary office. These workbooks contain both language arts and math activities in one book. Stop by or call the elementary office at 644-2740 to check on availability.

## School Board Officers Elected

The following school board officers were chosen at the annual Organizational Meeting held on Monday, July 14th.

Joyce Schafer	President
Terry Hutchinson	Vice President
Kari Rojas	Secretary
Jim Kremsreiter	Treasurer
Frank Fox	Trustee
Bob Pasch	Trustee
Rod Cole	Trustee

The School Board meetings are held on the third Monday of every month unless otherwise noted. The start time for this year's meetings will be at 7:00 p.m. This year's meeting schedule is as follows:

Monday, July 14, 2008	7:00 p.m.
Monday, August 18, 2008	7:00 p.m.
Monday, September 15, 2008	7:00 p.m.
Monday, October 20, 2008	7:00 p.m.
Monday, November 17, 2008	7:00 p.m.
Monday, December 15, 2008	7:00 p.m.
Org. Meeting Monday January 12, 2009	6:30 p.m.
Monday, January 12, 2009	7:00 p.m.
Monday, February 16, 2009	7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 16, 2009	7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 20, 2009	7:00 p.m.
Monday, May 18, 2009	7:00 p.m.
Monday, June 22, 2009	7:00 p.m.

## Blood Drive

The Beal City National Honor Society hosted their third and final blood drive of the school year on Tuesday, June 3. Blood drives have been one of several different community service projects put on by NHS. The initial goal was to have 30 pints of blood donated, and 42 were received, meaning the goal was exceeded. Three lives can be saved by every pint donated, meaning that every person who donates matters. Thanks to everyone who took time out of their day to donate and help save lives!

## New Michigan Child Restraining Law

The new Michigan Child Restraint Law went into effect on July 1, 2008. It requires the use of approved booster seats for children who are both:

- Under eight years old and
- Less than four feet nine inches tall.

This new law extends the current requirement of car seats for children under age four to include older children. It allows officers to stop a driver for that violation alone and a ticket can be issued for each improperly restrained child. Violators will face a fine of up to \$65.

Research has shown that the risk of injury for children ages 4-8 is reduced by 59 percent when using a booster seat and seat belt, versus a seat belt alone. Michigan joins 43 other states by adopting an expanded child passenger safety law. States that have passed similar laws have seen child restraint use increase dramatically. For more information, go to [www.michigansafekids.org](http://www.michigansafekids.org).

The 2008-09 school year will start on Tuesday, September 2. It will be a full day for all students. We miss you and can't wait to have you back!

# 2008/2009 School Calendar

August 26 – 28	Teacher Workday/Professional Dev. Days
September 2	First Student Day – Full Day
October 31	End of 1st Marking Period Student ½ day – Teacher Full Work Day
November 6	No Students – Parent Teacher Conferences
November 27 & 28	Thanksgiving Break
December 24 – Jan 2	Winter Break
January 16	End of Semester Student ½ day – Teacher Full Work Day
February 13	Student ½ day – Teacher Full Work Day
February 16	President’s Day Observance – No School
March 5	Evening Parent Teacher Conferences
March 27	End of 3rd Marking Period Student ½ day – Teacher Full Work Day
March 30 – April 3	Spring Break
April 10	Good Friday Observance – No School
May 25	Memorial Day Observance – No School
June 5	End of Semester Student ½ day – Teacher Full Work Day

## PTO News!

Last Spring our Parent Teacher Organization was just as busy as they were throughout the school year. Along with the Queen For a Day event on the front page, they awarded a student with “Principal for a Day” – Keegan Haynes, first grader in Mrs. Farrell’s room, took his duties very seriously as Principal for a Day on June 9. He earned this honor by raising the most money during the PTO Walk-a-thon fundraiser. When asked what he enjoyed the most about being the principal, Keegan replied that he liked giving out Good Character slips to deserving students. When asked what the toughest part of the job was, he replied it was “trying to get away from the kids”.

Thank you, PTO! Mayes Elementary School students and staff would like to give a big hug and thank you to our PTO members for the fun events and hard work. The staff also enjoyed the fruit smoothies and staff appreciation luncheon in May provided by the PTO. This spring the PTO also sponsored the Half Price Book Fair, assisted with the Senior Citizens Reception, organized the Walk-a-thon, and was prepared to help out with Field Day (until rain cancelled it-twice). We can’t say enough about our PTO members and want to add that, “WE LOVE YOU, PTO”!

PTO Meetings – The first Monday of each month, PTO meetings are held in Mrs. Jan Newman’s room at 6:30 p.m. We truly would like to have every parent involved with this dynamic group of volunteers. This is your invitation to join us at anytime!

## Board Briefs

The following was approved at a regular board meeting on July 14, 2008:

- ✍ General Fund payments of \$262,511.64.
- ✍ Hot Lunch payments of \$6,649.26, and Athletic Fund payments of \$15,227.93.
- ✍ The second reading of the Isabella County Truancy Policy.
- ✍ The 1st reading of the Elementary Student Handbook.
- ✍ The School Bond Loan Application

## Elementary Dress Code

This is a reminder to all students and families attending Mayes Elementary School. Flip flops, Wheelies/Heelies and backless sandals are not appropriate footwear in school due to safety concerns.

Shoes worn to school also must not have a heel that exceeds one inch.

Bare midriiffs, tank tops and sleeveless shirts less than two inches wide on the shoulders are not acceptable. For further Dress Code guidelines, please refer to the 2008-09 Mayes Elementary Parent/ Student Handbook. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Dates to Remember!

July 29, 2008 and August 5, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria there will be a 7-Period Day Parent Meeting; the meeting is to explain the new student class schedule. We are going from the 4x4 Block Schedule to the 7-Period Day Schedule. School will begin at 8:05 a.m. and end at 2:55 p.m. this upcoming school year. For more information you are invited to attend either July 29 or August 5 at 7:00 p.m.

7th Grade Orientation- August 26th at 7:00 in the Big Gym for all incoming 7th grade students and their parents. The Orientation will take place in the Big Gym

## Special Olympics



The Beal City National Honor Society took part in helping work at the Special Olympics on Friday, May 30th at Central Michigan University. NHS does several community service activities throughout the year, including blood drives, after school tutoring, fundraising for local charity organizations, and helping work the Special Olympics. Students took part in helping with the walking events throughout the morning, received a free lunch, and spent the afternoon cheering on the athletes at various events. Their cheering was great moral support for all the athletes who participated, as well as a very rewarding experience for the students. Being a part of such an amazing event was an experience unlike any other, and NHS looks forward to participating in more community events like this one in the future.

Free and Reduced Lunch Meal applications are included with this edition of The Aggie Express. Even if you don't think you qualify, please look over and fill out the information. There are a number of families who don't realize they can get assistance through this essential program.

## FREE Summertime FUN – [www.studyisland.com](http://www.studyisland.com)

A great FUN way to spend a rainy afternoon in the summer is working with your child and their growing mind. Children love to show you how much they know and how much they have learned. You can also have FUN learning or maybe remembering a few things as well, but you will surely have FUN watching your child's mind develop in front of your eyes.

Beal City Public Schools offers to all of its 2nd -8th grade students and their parents a FREE online study and testing tool called Study Island. Study Island really brings the four core subjects (Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies) to life in an anytime anywhere online format. This tool is used during the school year at school, as well as at home to help prepare students for the types of questions they will see on the states standardized assessment (MEAP). Study Island is an excellent way to keep the concepts and skills your child has learned sharp, while exposing them to new concepts and skills they might not have learned yet. When your child logs onto the website, you will see you have access to all grade levels. Therefore when your child has mastered the concepts at their current grade level, they can move onto the next grade level to begin introducing those concepts. Some parents use Study Island in the summer to get their children ready for the next school year by working with them on the material of grade level their child is going into the coming fall. Students love the challenge through the lessons, and then taking the tests. Students also enjoy the game format and creating a competition with their parents. The lessons are full of great information, pictures, graphs, and wonderful materials to help your child learn the concepts and skills in a FUN, exciting way.

All of the students in 2nd – 8th grade have been given their own username and password. The website is easy to remember, [www.studyisland.com](http://www.studyisland.com). Accessing and navigating the website is very simple to use. If parents need help there is an online help link available to explain the concepts being taught and/or how to use the site. If you have any question, comments, and or concerns regarding Study Island please feel free to contact Beal City Elementary, Junior/Senior High School, or central office at 644-3901.

# Fall Sports Parent Meetings

The beginning of the 2008/2009 sports season is around the immediate corner. There is a change in the format of the team meetings from previous years. For the 2008/2009 school year each team is going to have an individual parent/athlete meeting on each programs own scheduled night, rather than, all sports teams meeting on the same night. There will no longer be an athletic policy portion to the meeting. Participation fees will still be collected at the team meetings. Any changes to the athletic policy or points of emphasis will be included during the team meeting.

There is one major change to the athletic policy for the 2008/2009 school year. There will no longer be transportation to or from Saturday sporting events during the regular season. Based on the numbers from the 2007/2008 school year, this will save the district approximately \$7,500, and is projected to save more. The board of education approved the proposal at the June meeting. The details will be explained at the team meetings listed below.

## Cross Country:

Monday, August 4 6:00pm Media Center  
(Jr. High & Varsity)

## Football:

Tuesday, August 5 6:00pm Small Gym  
(JV & Varsity)

## Sideline Cheer:

Monday, August 11 7:00pm Media Center  
(9th – 12th)

## Volleyball:

Monday, August 18 7:00pm Cafeteria  
(Fresh, JV, Varsity)  
Monday, September 8 6:30pm Cafeteria  
(Jr. High)

Act 399 PA Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act R325.10416 Beal City Schools. To all faculty, staff, students, and parents/legal guardians: Beal City Public Schools has a water sampling compliance available for review in the Administration Office. Please contact John Graham to review it.

# High School Fall Sports Cross Country, Football, Sideline Cheer & Volleyball

Practices set to Begin: August 11, 2008

\*Reminder: make sure your son or daughter's physical is on file at the school. Every athlete must have a physical on file before tryouts or practice begins. The physical must have been completed no earlier than April 15, 2008.

## First Week Practice Schedule

### Cross Country:

High School: Mon., August 11 – Fri. August 15  
8:00 – 10:00am and/or 7:00 – 9:00pm

Junior High: Mon., August 25  
8:00 – 10:00am and/or 7:00 – 9:00pm

### Football:

Varsity: Mon., August 11 – Fri., August 15  
5:00 – 7:00pm and 7:30 – 9:30pm

JV: Mon., August 11 – Fri., August 15  
4:00 – 6:00pm and 6:30 – 8:30pm

### Sideline Cheer:

9th – 12th: Mon., August 11 – Thur., August 14  
12:00 – 3:00pm

### Volleyball:

JV & Varsity: Mon., August 11 – Wed., August 13  
(Tryouts) 5:15 – 7:00 pm  
Thur., August 14 (3:30 – 5:00pm)  
Fri., August 15 (8:00 – 9:45am)

Freshman: Mon., August 11 – Fri., August 15  
7:00 – 8:30pm

Junior High: Tues., September 2  
3:00 – 5:00 pm

# Fall Sports

## JV Football

Wed. Aug 27 6:30 p.m. @SHA  
 Thurs Sept 4 6:00 p.m. @Clare  
 Thurs Sept 11 6:30 p.m. Saginaw Nouvel  
 Thurs Sept 18 6:30 p.m. @Lake City  
 Thurs Sept 25 6:30 p.m. @McBain  
 Thurs Oct 2 6:30 p.m. Marion  
 Thurs Oct 9 6:30 p.m. Pine River  
 Thurs Oct 16 6:30 p.m. @Evert  
 Thurs Oct 23 6:30 p.m. Manton

## Varsity Football

Fri Aug 29 7:00 p.m. SHA  
 Fri Sep 5 7:00 p.m. Clare  
 Sat. Sept 13 6:00 p.m. Oakland Christian School  
 Fri Sep 19 7:00 p.m. Lake City  
 Fri Sept 26 7:00 p.m. McBain  
 Fri Oct 3 7:00 p.m. @Marion  
 Fri Oct 10 7:00 p.m. @Pine River  
 Fri Oct 17 7:00 p.m. Evert  
 Fri Oct 24 7:00 p.m. @Manton

## Varsity Volleyball

Fri Aug 22 8:30 a.m. @Alma Invitational  
 Sat. Sept. 6 9:00 a.m. @Pine River Invitational  
 Sat. Sept 13 9:00 a.m. @Carson City Crystal Invitational  
 Tues. Sept 16 6:00 p.m. @McBain NMC  
 Thur. Sept 18 6:00 p.m. @SHA  
 Sat. Sept 20 9:00 a.m. Beal City Tournament  
 Tue. Sept 23 6:00 p.m. McBain  
 Thur. Sept 25 6:00 p.m. @Montabella  
 Tue. Sept 30 6:00 p.m. @Marion  
 Sat. Oct 4 9:00 a.m. @Morrice Invitational  
 Tue. Oct 7 6:00 p.m. @Manton  
 Sat. Oct 11 9:00 a.m. @Morley Stanwood  
 Tue. Oct 14 6:00 p.m. Evert  
 Wed. Oct 15 6:00 p.m. Coleman  
 Tue. Oct 21 6:00 p.m. @Pine River  
 Sat. Oct 25 8:00 a.m. @Spirit of St Louis Tournament  
 Tue. Oct 28 6:00 p.m. Lake City  
 Sat. Nov 1 TBA Conference Tournament

## Junior High Volleyball

Thur. Sept 11 6:00 p.m. @Pine River  
 Thur. Sept 18 6:00 p.m. McBain  
 Mon Sept 22 5:00 p.m. @Lake City  
 Thur. Sept 25 6:00 p.m. Manton  
 Mon. Sept 29 6:00 p.m. @Evert  
 Thur. Oct 2 6:00 p.m. McBain NMC  
 Mon. Oct 6 6:00 p.m. Pine River  
 Wed. Oct 8 5:00 p.m. SHA  
 Mon Oct 13 6:00 p.m. @McBain  
 Thur. Oct 16 5:00 p.m. Lake City  
 Mon Oct 20 6:00 p.m. @Manton  
 Thur. Oct 23 6:00 p.m. Evert

## Varsity Cross Country

Thur. Aug 21 3:30 p.m. @St Charles Invite  
 Wed. Aug 27 TBA @Carson City-Crystal Open  
 Mon. Sep.8 4:00 p.m. Beal City Cross Country Invitational  
 Sat. Sep 13 10:00 a.m. @McBain Invitational  
 Tues Sept 16 4:30 p.m. @Manton Conference Jamboree  
 Fri. Sep 19 5:15 p.m. @Ferris State Invite  
 Wed. Sep 24 4:00 p.m. @SHA Invitational  
 Sat. Sept 27 9:00 a.m. @Carson City Invite  
 Tue. Sept. 30 4:30 p.m. @ Evert Conference Jamboree  
 Sat. Oct. 11 9:30 a.m. @Shepherd Invitational  
 Tue. Oct. 14 4:30 p.m. @Marion Conference Jamboree  
 Sat. Oct 18 11:00 a.m. Class D Meet – Bucks Run  
 Sat. Oct 25 TBA MHSAA Regionals  
 Sat. Nov 1 TBA MHSAA Finals - MIS

## Jr High Cross Country

Mon. Sept 8 4:00 p.m. Beal City Invite  
 Sat. Sept 13 10:00 a.m. @McBain Invitational  
 Tues. Sept 16 4:30 p.m. @Manton Conference Jamboree  
 Fri. Sept 19 5:15 p.m. @Ferris State Invitational  
 Wed Sept 24 4:00 p.m. @SHA Invitational  
 Sat. Sept 27 9:00 a.m. @Carson City Invite  
 Tues Sept 30 4:30 p.m. @Evert Conference Jamboree  
 Sat. Oct 11 9:30 a.m. @Shepherd Invite  
 Tues Oct 14 4:30 p.m. @Marion Conference Jamboree

## Freshman Volleyball

Sat. Sept 6 8:30 a.m. @St Louis Invitational  
 Thur. Sept 11 6:00 p.m. Morley Stanwood  
 Sat. Sept 13 9:00 a.m. BC Tournament  
 Thur. Sept 18 5:30 p.m. @Morey Charter  
 Tues. Sept 23 6:00 p.m. McBain  
 Thur. Sept 25 6:00 p.m. @Montabella  
 Mon. Sept 29 6:00 p.m. St Louis  
 Tues Oct 14 6:00 p.m. Morey Charter  
 Mon. Oct 20 6:00 p.m. Shepherd  
 Tues. Oct 21 6:00 p.m. @Pine River  
 Sat. Oct 25 9:00 a.m. @Ithaca Invitational  
 Tues. Oct 28 6:00 p.m. Lake City

## JV Volleyball

Sat. Sept 6 9:00 a.m. BC Tournament  
 Thur. Sept 11 6:00 p.m. Morley Stanwood  
 Sat. Sept 13 8:30 a.m. @ St. Louis Invitational  
 Tue. Sept 16 6:00 p.m. @McBain NMC  
 Thur. Sept 18 6:00 p.m. @SHA  
 Sat. Sept 20 8:30 a.m. @Breckenridge Invitational  
 Tue. Sept 23 6:00 p.m. McBain  
 Thur. Sept 25 6:00 p.m. @Montabella  
 Mon Sept. 29 6:00 p.m. St Louis  
 Tue. Sept 30 6:00 p.m. @Marion  
 Tue. Oct 7 6:00 p.m. @Manton  
 Sat. Oct 11 8:30 a.m. @ Carrollton  
 Tue. Oct 14 6:00 p.m. Evert  
 Wed. Oct 15 6:00 p.m. Coleman  
 Mon. Oct 20 6:00 p.m. Shepherd  
 Tue. Oct 21 6:00 p.m. @Pine River  
 Tue Oct 28 6:00 p.m. Lake City  
 Sat. Nov 1 9:00 a.m. Conference Tourn @ Beal City