



The Aggie Express

A publication of the Beal City Public Schools

www.bealcityschools.net

February 2009

School Board Officers Elected

In January our newly elected Board Members began their terms of office. Denise McBride and Ed VanAvery attended their first official Board Meeting as Board Members, where officers were elected and committees were re-established. Below is a list of the scheduled board meetings for the rest of the school year with their dates and times. All board meetings are held in the school's media center unless otherwise posted. Also there is a list of the board members and the offices that they hold.

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.

Terry Hutchinson	President
Rod Cole	Vice President
Kari Rojas	Secretary
Robert Pasch	Treasurer
Frank Fox	Trustee
Denise McBride	Trustee
Ed VanAvery	Trustee

Leader Dogs Visit Beal City



Aberdeen and True, two English Black Labs, visited Mayes Elementary School on January 12 with their trainer Kim

Wattles from Honor, Michigan. These two very well-behaved labradors are being trained as leader dogs for the blind. Kim volunteers to train the dogs for one year before they receive intensive training and selection based on their new owner's individual needs. The \$34,000 cost of their training is paid by the Lions Club. We thank Shirley Bailey, President of the Weidman Lions Club, for bringing Kim and her leader dogs to our school. Mayes students enjoyed petting these gentle dogs and asking questions regarding their training.



Isabella County Sesquicentennial Art and Essay Contest

Students in seventh and eighth art classes have been researching the area's history for the Isabella County Sesquicentennial Art and Essay Contest. Students have created artworks representing people, places and events that have taken place in the Beal City Area in the last 150 years.

Some of the students have used historical books and family photos to show their family farm as it looked in the past and today. Students have also illustrated some changes in transportation and farm equipment over the years. Farming and the County Fair have been popular subjects.

Art Reach of Mid-Michigan will choose one winner from the Beal City seventh grade and another from the Beal City eighth grade to receive a \$50 prize from Commercial Bank.

Winners will be announced and all of the student's art will be on display at the County Building in Mt Pleasant during the Founder's Day Celebration on February 11, 2009. Please make plans to visit the Founder's Day Celebration and see the art work our junior high students have contributed.

The Beal City GSRP
Preschool classroom
is currently accepting
names of preschool
age children (age 4 on
or before December 1,
2009) for the 2009-
2010 school year.
Please call the Mayes
Elementary Office at
644-2740 if you are
interested. Registration
and enrollment
information will be sent
out in April.

Reading Rainbow Returns!

Thanks to funding again provided by CMU Public Broadcast System and our own PTO, three FREE Reading Rainbow events are scheduled. Each event begins with a light dinner served at 5:30 pm followed by a book sharing and craft session beginning at 6:00 p.m. The light dinner includes soup, bread, cookies and a beverage. It all takes place in the Beal City Public School cafeteria. Beal City public and private school families are invited to attend. The first Reading Rainbow was January 29th. The last two dates are February 26 and March 26.

Michigan CSI-Beal City

This is NOT the TV show, but an extremely important community seminar sponsored FREE by the Attorney General's office. The Michigan Cyber Safety Initiative (CSI) is coming to Beal City on March 9 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the public school media center. Community members will learn how to:

- Access the Michigan Sex Offender Registry (including email updates)
- Obtain reliable information on parental control software
- Search and access your child's social networking site (MySpace and Facebook)
- View Internet history logs to determine where your children have been online
- Access and modify settings for safer surfing on Internet search engines (Yahoo! and Google, for instance)

The Mayes Elementary and St. Joseph the Worker Schools Parent Advisory Committee invites ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS to join us for this must-attend event. Flyers will be coming home with students in the near future with further details.

Addressing the Issue of Bullying

Through the dedication of school leaders, teachers and other staff members, schools are safe and nurturing places for students. However, bullying is an issue that every school district and building in the nation faces and addresses. Our school district continues to address this issue. You are encouraged to consult a new, FREE resource for parents dealing with bullying called the "Education.com Special Edition on Bullying at School and Online". This resource helps parents take an active role in addressing bullying at school and on-line. It includes easy- to-read articles, video clips, quick facts and quizzes. It also includes ten (10) actions parents can take to help reduce bullying. The resource can be located at the following web address: <http://www.education.com/special-edition/bullying/>

(Excerpts taken from the Clare School News January 12, 2009 edition)

New Kindergarten Student Parent Meeting

Mayes Elementary School will be holding a parent informational meeting for NEW kindergarten students for the 2009-2010 school year. This meeting will take place on Monday, March 16 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Beal City Public School cafeteria. Our kindergarten teachers will be registering students and providing an overview of the kindergarten curriculum and answering questions for parents. We will also hold our annual Kindergarten/Preschool Round-Up on Wednesday, April 15. If you have any questions regarding either one of these upcoming events, please call the elementary office at 644-2740.

Family Math Night

Join us for an evening of math fun and games! The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) comprised of parents and staff from both Mayes Elementary and St. Joseph the Worker Schools are sponsoring this event. Saginaw Valley State University is providing the math activities developed specifically with elementary students in mind. Parents and students are invited to join us FREE on Thursday, February 12 from 6:00-7:00 pm in the Mayes Elementary small gym. Cookies and beverages will be served. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Feb. 12 Family Math Night, 6:00-7:00 in small gym
- Feb. 13 Half day for students in the morning, 11:40 am dismissal; Valentine parties in the morning
- Feb. 16 NO School-Presidents' Day Observance
- Feb. 26 Reading Rainbow, 5:30-7:00 pm in school cafeteria
- Mar. 2 PTO meeting, 6:30 pm in Title classroom
- Mar. 6 Spring Parent Teacher Conferences, 5:00-8:00 pm
- Mar. 9 CSI (Cyber Safety Initiative) Community Seminar, 6:30-7:30 pm in school media center
- Mar. 16 New Kindergarten Student Parent Meeting, 6:30-7:30 pm in school cafeteria
- Mar. 26 Reading Rainbow, 5:30-7:00 pm in school cafeteria

The Beal City Athletic Association would like to thank the people who donated to the association in memory of Fred Straus.

Your generous donation is appreciated and will be put to good use to benefit the athletes of Beal City.

Boys and Girls Beal City Elementary Basketball

Dates for playing at halftime of a JV game:

3 & 4 boys played January 29 Lake City

5 & 6 boys played February 3 Evert.

3 & 4 grade girls: February 5th McBain NMC

5 & 6th grade girls: February 10th Manton

* Players should arrive at 6:00. *

Locker room facilities will be available to dress before and after they play.

*Players will NOT be charged admission into the games

*They will play for 10 minutes during the half-time of the JV game and will start at approximately 6:30.

*We hope that you and your families stay and enjoy the Varsity games to follow.

Coach House and Coach Lavoie thank you!

Beal City Football #1 Academic Team in Division 8

The Beal City Football Team has another accomplishment to be proud of this year.

They were the #1 Academic Team in Division 8, while Kevin Lucka was honorable mention in the individual academic all-state selection. Congratulations to the team, and the school for such a great accomplishment.

Spring Sports Parent/Athlete/ Coaches Meetings

Baseball

Sunday, February 22 12:30pm Small Gym

Softball

Sunday, February 22 12:30pm Cafeteria

Boys & Girls Track (7-12)

Monday, February 23 7:00pm Boys- Media Center
Girls - Small Gym

Beal City Athletic Association

The Beal City Athletic Association is asking for your assistance during the upcoming spring sports season. We do not schedule for concession stand during the spring sports program because it is so difficult asking parents to work with the way the spring sports schedules are.

Therefore, we have developed a list of all the home spring sports events and ask for as many Aggie volunteers as we can get to work the concession stand during these times. You don't have to have an athlete playing a sport during the spring to help out. We will have a listing posted on the inside concession stand door during basketball season and we will also post one on the BCAA website. If you find a date that works in your schedule, please email Vicki Steele at steel1vs@cmich.edu <<mailto:steel1vs@cmich.edu>> or call 644-3680 and leave a message if necessary to let me know when you can work and who will be working with you if anyone.

Board Briefs

The following was approved at a regular board meeting on January 12, 2009:

- ✍ General Fund payments of \$287,393.06, Hot Lunch payments of \$13,938.31, Athletic Fund payments of \$2,547.04.
- ✍ The development of the Beal City Area Education Foundation.
- ✍ The second reading of the New, Revised, Replacement Neola Policies.
- ✍ The coaching recommendation of Karl Matthews as a Voluntary Assistant JV Boys Basketball Coach.
- ✍ The coaching resignation of Brent Peavey as JV Boys Baseball Coach.
- ✍ The request from Diane Saltarelli and Julie Farrell to attend an out of state Title I Conference..



REPORT to PARENTS

Limiting Your Child's Online Access With Parental Controls

We all know that, as much as technology has opened new worlds to our children, it has also put them at risk of predators and of growing up too soon through exposure to things they shouldn't see at their ages. It's important for parents and caregivers to do all we can to help our children use technology safely and wisely. Here are some very important suggestions to put to work in your home:

Be in control. Parental controls are available for every make and model of computer and it's important to make sure they're in place. Use the "search" feature on your computer to locate where the parental controls feature is. Make sure you, with your own password, are the only one who can change the control settings. Each user of the family should be given access to the computer only through his or her own password. For each child, determine what type of content you want him or her to be able to see, and what you want blocked.

Check with your provider. Make sure to find out what services your Internet Service Provider (ISP) offers to help protect your children online. Many ISPs have invested heavily in ways to make sure that children can use the Internet safely.

Be picky. You can use parental controls to make sure your children visit only sites that are age-appropriate, or can make sure they can't download any files from the Web. You can also filter out content you don't want them to see, and prevent them from running certain programs.

Watch the clock. Parental controls often allow you to determine when, by hours of the day and days of the week, your children can access the Web, and when they will be blocked. This keeps kids from spending too much time on the computer and from getting on when no one's home to supervise.

Sharing is bad. Although it's important for you to always know their passwords, do not let your older and

younger children share passwords and do not divulge yours to them. If they sign on under your user name/password, they will not be protected through the parental controls you've set.

Get extra protection. Several excellent products go further than your computer's built-in parental controls and give you more confidence that your child's Web experiences will be safe. For those who are really concerned, a program such as the highly rated Web Watcher can track everything that happens on your child's or your family's computer, including who's using it, when, for how long, and on which sites.

Check their history. It's always a good idea to log onto the computer using your child's password and user name after your child has finished surfing the Web, whether it's for homework to be on MySpace, or to play games. Log in as them, open the Internet browser, and then view the sites they've just visited by simply clicking the little down-pointing arrow at the right hand side of the box where you type in a Web address. When you click on the down-arrow, all the recently visited sites will



be displayed in a list. Check to see if there are sites that your child visited that he or she shouldn't have.

Sneaky tricks. Unfortunately, older children, who are most likely to want to visit "off limits" sites, are also able to learn how to delete their history of visited sites. Fortunately, you can use an empty history as a clue. Make sure your children know that they will be disciplined if you see that they have deleted their history (which is done by going to the "tools" menu and clicking on "Internet options" or "options" and choosing to "delete").

Remember, including the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend that children spend no more than two hours a day using a computer, especially when on the Internet. It's up to you to help them make sure that their spending that time wisely, and safely.

MENU

February 9-13, 2009

Monday **Breakfast** -oatmeal, cheese stick, granola bar, donut, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** - Big Daddy's cheese pizza, cheese-filled breadstick, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Tuesday: **Breakfast** -scrambled eggs/ham, hash brown, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** - tater tot casserole or beef ravioli, peanut butter and jelly sandwich, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Wednesday: **Breakfast** - pretzel/cheese, granola bar, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** -scrambled eggs/ham or breakfast pizza, hash brown, bagels, fruit bar and milk.

Thursday **Breakfast** -bagel sausage pizza, cheese stick, granola bar, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk **Lunch** -Valentines Day – heart-shaped chicken nuggets w/mashed potatoes and gravy or turkey sub, dinner roll, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Friday: **Breakfast** egg and sausage on a bagel, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** - **NO LUNCH – HALF DAY**

February 16-20, 2009

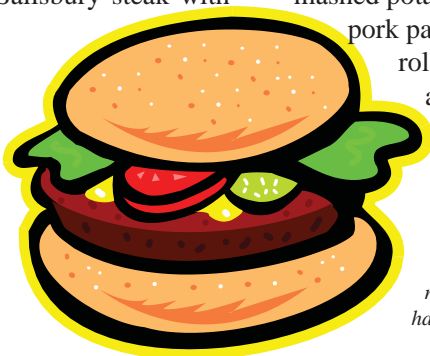
Monday: **Breakfast** - NO SCHOOL

Tuesday: **Breakfast** -egg/cheese omelet, hash brown, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk **Lunch** - popcorn chicken or baked potato, dinner roll, hot vegetable, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Wednesday: **Breakfast** -pretzel/cheese, granola bar, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk **Lunch** - beef stew/biscuit or hamburger/bun, dessert, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Thursday: **Breakfast** -breakfast pizza, cheese stick, granola bar, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk **Lunch** - broccoli casserole or grilled chicken/bun, peanut butter and jelly sandwich, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Friday: **Breakfast** bagels, cheese stick, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** - Salisbury steak with mashed potatoes and gravy or pork patty/bun, dinner roll, salad bar, fruit and milk.



Menus are subject to change, and no child shall be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap.

February 23 - 27, 2009

Monday: **Breakfast** - cinnamon glazed French toast, cheese stick, granola bar, donut, cereal, fruit, juice and milk **Lunch** - nachos/meat and cheese or totally tacos, peanut butter and jelly sandwich, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Tuesday: **Breakfast** - egg/cheese omelet, hash brown, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** -hot dog/bun or sloppy jo/bun, chips, dessert, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Wednesday: **Breakfast** -pretzel/cheese, muffin, yogurt, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** - grilled cheese sandwich or fish/bun, tomato soup, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Thursday: **Breakfast** -breakfast pizza, cheese stick, granola bar, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk **Lunch** - chicken nuggets or bbq beef/bun, hot vegetable, dinner roll, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Friday: **Breakfast** -waffle sticks, muffin, yogurt, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk **Lunch** - Big Daddy's cheese pizza, cheese-filled breadstick, salad bar, fruit and milk

NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK! GOT MILK?
Promotion all week!

March 2 - 6, 2009

Monday: **Breakfast** - egg and sausage on a biscuit, muffin, donut, cereal, fruit, juice and milk **Lunch** - Pizza King/ham pizza, cheese-filled breadstick, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Tuesday: **Breakfast** -scrambled eggs/ham, hash brown, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** - **Dr. Seuss/Picnic Day** – ABC and 123 shaped chicken nuggets or one fish on a bun, spiral shaped French fries, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Wednesday: **Breakfast** -pretzel/cheese, muffin, yogurt, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** -sausage gravy/biscuit or egg cheese omelet, hash brown, bagels, fruit bar and milk.

Thursday: **Breakfast** -bagel sausage pizza, cheese stick, granola bar, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** - Mexican lasagna or chicken fajita, dessert, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Friday: **Breakfast** -mini pancakes, sausage, granola bar, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk **Lunch** - broccoli casserole or grilled chicken/bun, peanut butter and jelly sandwich, salad bar, fruit and milk.

AYCE Spaghetti Dinner

The Beal City Baseball Teams will be putting on an all you can eat spaghetti dinner on Thursday, March 19th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Beal City Schools cafeteria. Adult meals are \$6.00, children ages 5 – 12 are \$3.00 and children under the age of 5 are free. Please come out and support our Beal City Baseball Teams. Your support is appreciated. **GO AGGIES!**

The 1st Annual Aggie Baseball Camp will be held on Saturday March 21. Grades 5-6 will be from 9-11 and Grades 7-8 will be from 11:30-1:30. Cost will be \$25.00 and more information will be sent home at a later date.