



The Aggie Express

A publication of the Beal City Public Schools

www.bealcityschools.net

February, 2011



Kindergartners Support H.A.T.S.

In December the Kindergarten students in Mrs. Leff-Ewing's class held their annual Mammal Presentation for the preschool and lower elementary students. They each presented a fact about mammals or pet care to their fellow students and parents while they sang a song about "Jasper Brown", Mrs. Leff-Ewing's rescued golden retriever.

The presentation was part of their PET CARE unit and service learning project to raise money for needy animals in shelters. The kindergartners made and sold over 300 dog treats to help the cause. With the support of their school they raised \$50 to support the H.A.T.S., Humane Animal Treatment Society, in Isabella County.

A big thank you to everyone for your support and a "High Paws" to you from your four legged friends!

You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL START TIME

All students are expected to be seated in their classrooms no later than 8:00 a.m. In order to accomplish this, students are brought in from the playground by 7:55 a.m. allowing them time to put their book bags, coats, etc. in their lockers. Students who are not in class between 8:00 – 8:15 a.m. are counted as tardy. After 8:15 a.m. students are considered absent for the morning. When students arrive late to class it not only impacts their learning, but it also disrupts the whole class and forces them to lose their focus. Please make every effort to have your child at school in a timely fashion. Your help is very much appreciated.

SECOND GRADERS "LEARN TO SKATE"

Beginning Friday, February 4, second grade students will be participating in the "Learn to Skate" program at the Mt. Pleasant Ice Arena. They will be skating every Friday, February 4 – March 4 (excluding February 18 due to a half day of school). If you need more specific information regarding this program, please contact your child's teacher.

FIFTH & SIXTH GRADE A/B HONOR ROLL

Congratulations to the following students for their excellent academic grades achieved during the second marking period!

Mr. King's Class
5th Graders:
Mahealani Andrews
Rachel Beltinck
Spencer Clouse
Nick Freeze
Rebecca Hodges
Isaiah Schafer
Charlie Schwerin
Morgan Smith
Shelby Trevino
Lauren Turner
Zachary Yoder

Mrs. Wentworth's Class
6th Graders:
Navid Cole
TristinGott
Kristen Hood
Ryan Powell

Mr. Bloniarczyk's Class:
5th Graders:
Hannah Carson
Jason Clark
Tyler Darnell
Rhianna Haynes
Alli Peak
Bekah Raitz
Nate Reihl

6th Graders:
Nathan Cotter
McKenzie Eiseler
Kodie Keller
Stephanie Ley
Eric Maxon
Ariel Salter
Billy Scott
Tristan Smith
Ashtyn Thompson
Alora Vogel

CHARACTER COUNTS AT MAYES ELEMENTARY!

Two students from each elementary classroom were selected to share in a first semester reward based on how well they demonstrated the six pillars of Character Counts! On January 28, these 24 students took a field trip to the Midland Center for the Arts with Mrs. Saltarelli. They were treated to a presentation entitled, "Bigger Than T. Rex: Giant Killer Dinosaurs of Argentina". This fun, interactive learning experience explored the ancient world of dinosaurs through hands-on and virtual activities. The following students, listed by home-room class, earned this honor and deserve recognition for being wonderful role models for all of us:

KINDERGARTEN:

Mrs. Leff-Ewing: Rylee Sisco and Braylon Zuker
Ms. Pickler: Anthony Campbell and Mia Gotts

FIRST GRADE:

Mrs. Davis: Morgan Wilson and Donovan Zuker
Mrs. Maxon: Hannah Bass and Haiden Onstott

SECOND & THIRD GRADE:

Ms. Courtright: Jimmy Ciochetto and Olivia Nelson
Mrs. Smith: Abby Bass and Angela Kotecki
Mrs. Snyder: Jay Lyon and Trey Small

FOURTH GRADE:

Ms. Natzel: Nathan Hodges and Katlyn Yoder
Mrs. Weis: Kyle Reeve and Kendyl Wilson

FIFTH & SIXTH GRADE:

Mr. King/Mrs. Cole: Lauren Turner and Zach Yoder
Mr. Bloniarczyk: Jason Clark and Morgan Johnson
Mrs. Wentworth: Navid Cole and Kristen Hood

COMPUTER LAB:

The computer lab will be open to students on Monday's, Wednesday's and Thursday's from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

School Board Officers Elected

Beal City Schools would like to welcome Jane Finnerty as the newest school board member. There were three seats up for election in November and Terry Hutchinson and Rod Cole decided to rerun. Kari Rojas decided to step down, and after interviewing two candidates, the school board appointed Jane Finnerty to the open seat. Welcome Jane!

The following school board officers were chosen at the annual Organizational Meeting held on Monday, January 17th.

Terry Hutchinson	President
Rod Cole	Vice President
Denise McBride	Secretary
Bob Pasch	Treasurer
Frank Fox	Trustee
Ed VanAvery	Trustee
Jane Finnerty	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, January 17, 2011	Organizational Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Monday, January 17, 2011	Regular Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Monday, February 21, 2011		7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 21, 2011		7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 18, 2011		7:00 p.m.
Monday, May 16, 2011		7:00 p.m.
Monday, June 27, 2011	Budget Hearing	6:30 p.m.
Monday, June 27, 2011	Regular Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Monday, July 18, 2011		7:00 p.m.
Monday, August 15, 2011		7:00 p.m.
Monday, September 19, 2011		7:00 p.m.
Monday, October 17, 2011		7:00 p.m.
Monday, November 21, 2011		7:00 p.m.
Monday, December 19, 2011		7:00 p.m.
Monday, January 16, 2012	Organizational Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Monday, January 16, 2012	Regular Meeting	7:00 p.m.

ACT & MME Testing for Juniors:

All 11th grade students in the State of Michigan will be completing required testing on March 1-3. March 1st will be the ACT, March 2nd will be the Work Keys assessment and March 3rd will be the Michigan Merit Exam. These tests are used as students college entrance exams and can also qualify students for different scholarships and financial aid. It is imperative that Juniors be in attendance these three days and on time, as testing will begin first thing in the morning and students will not be allowed entrance after testing has started.

Baseball Spaghetti Dinner

The Beal City Baseball Program will be putting on their annual spaghetti dinner on Wednesday, March 16, 2011 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. in the Beal City Schools Cafeteria. Meal includes spaghetti and meat sauce, salad, drink (milk, lemonade or coffee) and dessert. The cost is \$7.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children ages 5 – 12 and preschoolers are free. Come and Enjoy!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- February 4 The Keith Kocher Krazy Hypnosis Show, 6:30 pm
Beal City School Elementary Gym, Tickets \$8.00
- February 7 PTO meeting, 6:30 pm in Mrs. Davis' classroom
- February 11 Third Grade Field Trip to Ziibiwing Center
- February 14 Valentine Parties
- February 18 Half day for students, 11:40 am dismissal;
Professional Development for Teachers
- February 21 NO School-Presidents' Day Observance
- March 3 Spring Parent Teacher Conferences, 5:00-8:00 pm
- March 7 PTO meeting, 6:30 pm in Mrs. Davis' classroom
- March 15 New Kindergarten Student Meeting for Parents,
6:30-7:30 pm in school cafeteria

Board Briefs

The following was approved at a regular board meeting on
January 17, 2011:

- General Fund payments of \$353,713.67, Hot Lunch payments of \$11,735.84, Athletic Fund payments of \$2,029.14.
- The PCMI/Willsub coaching recommendations as presented: Shea Mead – 8th Gr Girls Basketball, Brad Antcliff – Varsity Baseball, Kory Stevens – JV Baseball, Alicia Wernette – Varsity Softball, and Scott Barnes – Varsity Boys Track.
- The following coaching recommendations as presented: Kaleb House – Boys Elementary Coordinator, Amanda Wilson – Girls Elementary Coordinator and JV Softball, Dennis Bechtel – Voluntary Assistant Varsity Baseball, Mike Bleise – Voluntary Assistant Varsity Baseball, Tom Atkinson Jr. – Voluntary Assistant JV Baseball, Rod Flaughner – Voluntary Assistant Varsity Softball, Dave King – Varsity Girls Track, Scott Bloniarzciak – Girls JH Track, and Scott Leppert – Boys JH Track

NEW SPECIAL EDUCATION IEP CHANGES

Staff members at Beal City Public School received training at the end of January to become familiar with the new online IEP which was presented by the GIRESD (Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District). One of the most significant changes made to the IEP (Individualized Education Program) is the removal of a past practice commonly done in Michigan, but no other states. The state is no longer requiring a parent signature line at the end of an IEP. Previously, parents signed their child's IEP upon completion, now parents only sign the first or "initial" IEP. This rule change came from the Federal Office of Special Education Services in Washington, D.C. to fix Michigan's non-compliance with their rules. Parents can still use the same appeal process as before if there is a disagreement with the IEP. Contact the GIRESD at 989-875-5101 and ask for the Special Education office if you have questions. The Mayes Elementary Principal/Special Education Director can assist you as well at 644-2740. Another helpful resource is the www.michigan.gov website. Search on the "Parent" page under the "Education and Children" button or "Special Education" button.

-Excerpts taken from the Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District newsletter

MEETING FOR NEW KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

Mayes Elementary School will be holding a parent informational meeting for NEW kindergarten students for the 2011-2012 school year. This meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 15 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 Round-Up on Tuesday, April 19. If you have any questions regarding either of these upcoming events, please call the elementary office at 644-2740.

READING RAINBOW RETURNS

Thanks to support from our PTO, Reading Rainbow returns to brighten our long winter evenings. The two Reading Rainbow events are planned for February 23 and March 23, both fall on a Wednesday. Each evening begins with a light dinner served at 6:00 p.m. followed by a book sharing and craft session. The light dinner includes soup, bread, cookies and a beverage. It all takes place in Mrs. Davis's room at Mayes Elementary School. Beal City public and private school families are invited to attend. Join us for an evening of food and reading fun!



REPORT_{to} PARENTS

RP 32:3

Does Your Child Have a Learning Disability?

Maybe you suspect something's not quite right, that your child is falling behind classmates in school, not because he or she doesn't want to succeed, but because something's holding your child back. That "something" may very well be a learning disability. But the good news is that schools are better equipped than ever before to help children succeed. But how do you know if your child is dealing with a learning disability? Here are some signs to look for:

"I just don't understand." Most children with learning disabilities really want to succeed and work hard to understand their homework and complete their assignments, but they often find that they just don't "get it" and become frustrated and discouraged.

Trouble Memorizing. So much of schoolwork involves memorizing. For example, learning to recognize common words is vital to becoming a good reader, and knowing basic multiplication and division tables "by heart" is essential to moving forward in math. Does your child have difficulty memorizing numbers or words, even after repeated practice?

Flipping. While it's very common for young students to have trouble with letters or words that look similar—think of the letters "p," "q," and "d" or the words "rug," "mug," and "jug"—for children with a certain learning disability known as dyslexia, the confusion lasts beyond early elementary school. Other signs to look for are problems coming up with rhymes to words and significant difficulty learning to either read, write, or both.

Trouble Communicating. Imagine that you're in another country where you don't speak the language and are trying to communicate. That's what it's like for children whose learning disabilities interfere with their ability to communicate. Sometimes, it just takes these children much longer to come up with the words to ask or answer a question. Other times, these children simply give

up; it's too hard for them to even try. It's not that they don't know what they want to say, it's that they just can't get the words out.

Feeling "Distant." Does your child prefer to be alone rather than playing with friends or siblings? Is it hard to get him or her to look you in the eye when you're talking? Did he or she learn to speak unusually late and, even then, was it in an almost mechanical tone of voice? These are all possible signs of autism, one of the most rapidly growing disorders affecting children today, and a condition that can range from moderate to severe.

Acting Out. Some children with learning disabilities develop behavior issues in school. Whether the misbehavior is related to a feeling of failure in school or due to another related condition—

attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) or attention-deficit disorder (ADD)—education specialists, working closely with the child and parents, can make a tremendous difference, both in the child's behavior and their school performance.

If you recognize any of these signs, it doesn't mean that your child has a learning disability. Talk to your child's teacher and see if he or she has noticed the same things you have and find out if there are things you can do at home to help. While you're following those suggestions, keep copies of schoolwork that show

why you're concerned, and write down in a notebook a record of the date and type of problems you're noticing.

If things don't seem to improve, the next step is to request that your child be evaluated for a learning disability. It is a formal process involving a series of tests and meetings and, in the case of a significant learning disability, ends with an education plan (known as an individualized education program, or IEP) developed specifically with your child's needs in mind. While it may seem like a hassle, the bottom line is that, if your child does have a condition that is truly impairing his or her ability to learn, there will be help.



MENU

Jan. 31 – Feb. 4, 2011

Monday: Breakfast – french toast sticks, cheese stick, granola bar, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – Big Daddy’s meat lover’s pizza, breadstick, salad bar, fruit, juice or milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast – egg and sausage on a bagel, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – macaroni & cheese or bbq beef/bun, hot vegetable, dinner roll, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast – egg/cheese omelet, hash brown, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – breakfast pizza 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** – nachos/meat and cheese or totally tacos, peanut butter and jelly sandwich, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Friday: Breakfast – pretzel/cheese, muffin, yogurt, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – scalloped potatoes/ham or chicken patty/bun, dessert, dinner roll, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Feb. 7 – 11, 2011

Monday: Breakfast – cinnamon roll, yogurt, muffin, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – popcorn chicken or baked potato, dinner roll, hot vegetable, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast – sausage gravy/biscuit, cheese stick, muffin, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – corn dog nuggets or hamburger/bun, french fries, muffins, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast – mini pancakes, yogurt, granola bar, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – spaghetti or chicken Caesar salad, garlic bread, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Thursday: Breakfast – breakfast pizza, cheese stick, granola bar, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – hot turkey sandwich with mashed potatoes and gravy or meat sub, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Friday: Breakfast – oatmeal, sausage links, cinnamon roll, granola bar, cereal, fruit juice and milk. **Lunch** – grilled cheese sandwich or fish/bun, tomato soup, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Feb. 14 – 18, 2011

Monday: Breakfast – french toast sticks, cheese stick, granola bar, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – “Valentines Day” – heart-shaped chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes and gravy or meat sub, dessert, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast – egg/cheese omelet, hash brown, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – chicken strips or chili, cornmeal muffins, hot vegetable, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast – egg and sausage on a bagel, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – french toast sticks or sausage gravy/biscuit, hash brown, bagels, fruit bar and milk.

Thursday: Breakfast – bagel sausage pizza, cheese stick, granola bar, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – taco or chicken fajita, peanut butter and jelly sandwich, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Friday: Breakfast – breakfast kit and milk. **Lunch** – HALF DAY – NO LUNCH.

Feb. 21 - 25, 2011

Monday: NO SCHOOL.

Tuesday: Breakfast – sausage gravy/biscuit, cheese stick, muffin, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – stuffed crust pepperoni pizza, cheese-filled breadstick, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast – mini pancakes, yogurt, cinnamon roll, granola bar, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – chicken quesadilla or burrito, peanut butter and jelly sandwich, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Thursday: Breakfast – breakfast pizza, cheese stick, granola bar, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk.. **Lunch** – salisbury steak/mashed potatoes/gravy or ham/cheese sub, dinner roll, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Friday: Breakfast – oatmeal, sausage links, granola bar, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – beef stew/biscuit or chicken parmesan, peanut butter and jelly sandwich, cinnamon tasties, salad bar, fruit and milk.