



The Aggie Express

A publication of the Beal City Public Schools

www.bealcityschools.net

January 2010

Sights & Sounds of Kenya



Richard Stokes shared his first hand experiences from his visits to Kenya and Tanzania with Mayes Elementary students during an hour long assembly on December 22.

His large artifact collection from many areas of Africa featured wood carvings as well as specialized items which include musical instruments, African cloth and soap stone. African music recorded in Kenya was also shared during the presentation. Our thanks to RJ and



Joyce Schafer for sponsoring this outstanding assembly through the Gleaners.



On Wednesday, January 20, 2010, Beal City High School is hosting a Financial Aid Night for seniors and their parents. A Financial Aid representative from an area college will be here to present information on scholarships, grants, loans and how to complete the FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Even if you have older students who have gone through this process, you should try to attend, because there are changes that happen every year.

The meeting will be held in the cafeteria and will begin at 7:00. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Heintz at school.

Dear Friends and Family,

Words cannot express the gratitude we feel toward everyone who participated in the benefit for our daughter Claire. The outpouring of love and support from the community has been overwhelming, and it has truly given us strength throughout this difficult time. The journey ahead is long, but your continued thoughts and prayers will help to guide us. We are humbled and blessed. Saying thank you does not seem enough.

Love,

Matt, Melissa & Claire Block

Santa's Secret Shopper's



help of our terrific PTO. We appreciate the PTO providing the gift items and volunteers to assist students with making these very special purchases.

There were lots of Santa's elves scurrying throughout the preschool classroom making last minute purchases on December 11. Students were clutching many lists and checking them twice with the



Emergency Information

Please notify the school offices immediately if your address, phone number(s) or emergency contacts have changed since the beginning of the school year. It is especially distressing for a sick or injured child to wait in the office for prolonged periods of time due to disconnected phones or contact people that have moved. Likewise, it puts the school in a precarious position when a person not listed on the form attempts to pick your child up from school only to be told they cannot do so. Call the elementary office at 644-2740 or the Jr./Sr. High Office at 644-3944 to update your child's emergency information form. Your child and the school greatly appreciate your assistance with this request.

Winter Clothing

The weather outside is frightful... is your child prepared to face winter with proper seasonal clothing? This is a reminder that our student dress code states that when the outside temperature is 41-50 degrees, coats or sweatshirts are necessary. In addition, at 40 degrees or below snow pants, boots, gloves and hats are required. If a student comes to school unprepared to go outside, s/he will receive a warning the first time. If cold weather clothing is forgotten after that, students will remain on the blacktop. At all times, best judgment in accordance with weather conditions is expected. Thank you for helping us to keep your child(ren) safe and warm.

Christmas Thank You!

A big THANK YOU to Mayes Elementary families, community and staff members for donating items for Christmas Outreach stockings! The toys, clothing and personal items were very much needed and added holiday cheer to many homes that otherwise would not have much to celebrate, especially in this time of need.

Board Briefs

The following was approved at a regular board meeting on December 21, 2009:

- ✍ General Fund payments of \$285,936.30, Hot Lunch payments of \$12,559.33, Athletic Fund payments of \$27,788.52.
- ✍ The Credit Card Adjustment Resolution to increase the school's credit card limit from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00.
- ✍ The purchase of a used bus from the Capital Projects Fund after July 1, 2010.
- ✍ The following coaching recommendations as presented: Chelsea Hall - Voluntary Assistant Cheer Coach, and Maggie Oldenburg – Dance Coach.

Beal City Athletic Association

The Beal City Athletic Association is looking for new volunteers who can assist the current volunteers in making sure our concession stands continue to run successfully for

years to come. Without the Athletic Association, the school would not be able to provide the service of an athletic sports trainer or have freshmen sports for girls volleyball and boys basketball.

At the end of the school year, Vicki Steele will conclude her duties as President and the group will be looking for a new one to take over the responsibility. It would be great if we could have someone in place before June so they can learn the ropes. Parents who have athletes in middle school and junior high, it would be great to get you involved so we can continue this Aggie tradition of providing for our athletes and the teams they play on.

Mark Your Calendars

- January 4** Classes resume; PTO meeting, 6:30 p.m. in Title Classroom
- January 6** Marshall Music Co. will be testing 5th graders for instruments
- January 8** Elvis is in the house! Elvis makes a return visit to celebrate his birthday in the cafeteria with the students.
- January 15** End of first semester/second marking period: half day for students with dismissal at 11:40 a.m. NO lunch will be served.

Beal City Senior Wins Poster Contest

Congratulations to Beal City senior Nicole Garrett who won the 4th Annual Morey Talent Poster Contest. This year's theme was "Rendezvous Under the Lights". Nicole chose to represent that theme with a variety of performers under the lights on a stage. She designed and arranged the lettering telling the where, when and who of the Talent Contest. Posters were judged by volunteers from Art Reach of Mid-Michigan. The 5th Annual Isabella County High School Talent contest is scheduled for Sunday, February 7, 2010 at 2 pm at the Mt Pleasant High School Auditorium. The first place poster Nicole designed will serve as a billboard to represent the 5th Annual Isabella County High School Talent Contest. Nicole's winning poster will also be showcased on the cover of the 5th Annual Talent Show program. High school students from Mt Pleasant, Morey, Sacred Heart, Shepherd and Beal City competed in the contest. All posters entered in the competition will be on display to promote the Talent Show.

Thank you very much to Mr Lon Morey, and the Morey Foundation for sponsoring the Poster Contest and the Talent show and making these wonderful opportunities available to students in Isabella County. Thanks also to Mr Erik Spindler for his role in coordinating the poster contest and being a helpful contact to the participating high schools.

School Board Honored In January

As citizen leaders, individual school board members face complex and demanding challenges. They are alternately described as having the most important volunteer jobs in the country and facing the toughest challenge in elected American government. Yet school board members are just ordinary citizens with extraordinary dedication to our nation's public schools.

All Michigan citizens should recognize the vital contributions of these men and women and the crucial role these elected public officials play in the education of our children. Public education is the backbone of American society, and local school boards are deeply rooted in U.S. tradition. Today local school boards continue to do the most important work of their communities – that of educating our youth.

Their job is to establish a vision for the education program, design a structure to achieve that vision, ensure schools are accountable to the community and strongly advocate continuous improvement in student learning. Yet local trustees sometimes tackle an often thankless job devoid of any glory. Too often we are quick to criticize school board members without really knowing all the details that went into a given decision. Now is the time to thank them for their untiring efforts.

Although they wear many hats in the workday world, school board members put on a collective hat when they get down to the business of leading their school districts. Board members must pull together as a team toward a common goal—helping students achieve. Though they may individually disagree on certain issues, their role as a board is to consistently strive toward that goal.

Too often we forget about the personal sacrifices school board members routinely make. Board members contribute hundreds and hundreds of hours each year leading their districts. The time spent in board meetings represents just a small fraction of the hours school board members spend leading in their districts. They also work hard at seminars and training sessions to keep abreast of the latest trends in educational leadership, are deeply involved in community activities and spend more hours in the schools and at extracurricular events. Their love for learning, and concern and caring for students, staff and community, drives board members' desire to lead so students can achieve.

In recognition of the dedicated service, January is designated School Board Recognition Month. This is a time to show our appreciation and begin to better understand how local trustees work together to provide a better future for our children. In January, join with others from throughout our district and state to salute the men and women who provide grassroots governance of public schools.

The men and women serving Beal City Public Schools and their years of service are:

Frank Fox 9 years
Terry Hutchinson 8 years
Robert Pasch 6 years
Kari Rojas 4 years
Rod Cole 3 year
Denise McBride 1 year
Ed VanAvery 1 year

Attention 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Students

If you want to become healthy and active, join Fuel Up to Play 60. This is a program where we can eat healthy and be active while having fun. It was started by the NFL and The United Dairy Council to encourage students to exercise 60 minutes a day and make healthy choices when eating! Simply log in at www.fueluptoplay60.com to track your progress while earning points. The more points the better! Compete against other schools and each other! If you earn enough points and are in the top 50 in the state, you could win an iPod touch, \$50.00 gift card, or the big prize of meeting an NFL player! Plus, the school has several prizes for students who join! You can find a way to be physically active while having fun and feel energized too! So if you are ready for an exciting way to stay healthy, join Fuel Up to Play 60 today!!!

Elvis will be in the building on Friday, January 8th! The cafeteria staff will be celebrating his birthday with Elvis himself! Entertainment will be provided during all lunch periods. Dress up like "The King" or in the 50's style. Come and join us for this rare and wonderful celebration!



RP 27:4

REPORT to PARENTS

How to Succeed with School Personnel

No child sails through his or her entire school life without at least a few rough waters. Sometimes it's a classmate who's causing problems. Sometimes it's an issue of how the teacher handles the class or treats a child. Sometimes it's a big misunderstanding. And, yes, sometimes the problem is even with your child. No matter what the issue, there are some tried-and-true ways to make dealing with problems at school much smoother.

Start with the teacher. The best first step is to call your child's teacher and set up a phone conference to discuss the problem. Often, the next step is a face-to-face meeting at the school, either with or without your child. Only if the problem is still unresolved should you take it to the next level – a meeting with the principal.

Don't be afraid. Many of us feel like children again when we have to meet with the teacher or principal. While these educators are in positions of authority, they're also adults just like you who are interested in your child's education and eager to make the situation better. Don't worry that raising issues with them will "hurt" your child in the classroom. Leaving problems unresolved can be more problematic.

Think positively. In preparation for a meeting with school personnel, envision that everything will work out for the best. A positive attitude makes it easier for everyone to calmly discuss the issues and find solutions.

Get the facts – from both sides. Sit down with your child and write down his or her version of the situation. If it's a problem with grading or schoolwork, bring along examples of papers that illustrate your points. Then go through the issues with the teacher and listen to his or her perspective.

Take off the rose-colored glasses. It's hard to hear a teacher say that your child is having issues in class, but the situation won't improve unless you understand the teacher's side of things as well.

Use some psychology. No matter how frustrated you are, you can make the situation better if you offer positive comments. For example, if you're meeting with your child's teacher think of the good things you've heard about the class. Teachers need to know that you see their good efforts as well.

Be respectful. Even if the teacher is "to blame," it's important that you and your child behave respectfully. Children learn what they live and should observe you treating others with respect at all times.

Decide on a solution – together. Work with your child's teacher to come up with a written list of how to resolve the situation. There should be items for you and your child to address and make a copy of the list for both of you, and then schedule a follow-up appointment to see what progress has been made.

Follow up on your end. If a teacher has asked you to work on some issues with your child at home, it's important that you do so. You certainly expect the teacher to follow through with what he or she has promised, and it's only fair that you do the same.

Be realistic. Not every school year will be perfect. Sometimes, children and teachers just don't "click." But by dealing with situations calmly and by focusing on the solutions – not the problems – you'll be making the best of the year for you and your child.

MENU

January 4 - 8, 2010

Monday: Breakfast – cinnamon-glazed french toast, cheese stick granola bar, donut, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – pepperoni bagel pizza, cheese-filled breadstick, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast – egg/cheese omelet, hash brown, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – chicken nuggets or bbq beef/bun, hot vegetable, dinner roll, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast – pretzel/cheese, muffin, yogurt, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk.

Lunch – breakfast pizza or egg cheese omelet, hash brown, bagels, fruit bar and milk.

Thursday: Breakfast – breakfast 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 – egg and sausage on a biscuit, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk.

Lunch – Elvis Day – “All Shook Up” popcorn chicken or “Jailhouse Rock” potatoes, dinner roll, hot vegetable, salad bar, fruit and milk.

January 11 - 15, 2010

Monday: Breakfast – waffle sticks, muffin, yogurt, donut, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – Big Daddy’s cheese pizza, breadstick, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast – scrambled eggs/ham, hash brown, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – corn dog nuggets or hamburger/bun, french fries, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast – pretzel/cheese, muffin, yogurt, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – spaghetti or chicken Caesar salad, garlic bread, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Thursday: Breakfast – bagel sausage 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: HALF DAY - Breakfast – breakfast kit with milk – **NO LUNCH**

January 18 - 22, 2010

Monday: Breakfast – mini pancakes, sausage, granola bar, donut, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – stuffed crust pepperoni pizza, cheese-filled breadstick, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast – egg/cheese omelet, hash brown, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – scalloped potatoes or chicken patty/bun, dessert, dinner roll, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast – pretzel/cheese, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – hot dog/bun or sloppy jo/bun, french fries, dessert, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Thursday: Breakfast – breakfast 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 – sausage gravy/biscuit, cheese stick muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – grilled cheese sandwich or fish/bun, tomato soup, salad bar, fruit and milk.

January 25 - 29, 2010

Monday: Breakfast – oatmeal, cheese stick, granola bar, donut, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – cheese pizza, breadstick, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast – scrambled eggs/ham, hash brown, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – corn dog nuggets or chicken parmesan, peanut butter and jelly sandwich, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast – pretzel/cheese, granola bar, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – Salisbury steak/mashed potatoes/gravy or pork patty/bun, dinner roll, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Thursday: Breakfast – bagel sausage pizza, cheese stick, granola bar, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** – chicken strips or chili, cornmeal muffins, hot vegetable, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Friday: Breakfast – egg and sausage on a bagel, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice, and milk. **Lunch** – beef stew/biscuit or turkey a la king/biscuits, cinnamon tasties, 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.