



The Aggie Express

A publication of the Beal City Public Schools

www.bealcityschools.net

October 2009

Homecoming 2009



This year's Homecoming Court:

- Freshman = Monica David & Sam Schafer
- Sophomore = Kylee Theisen & Conner Steffke
- Junior = Amy Finnerty & Jay Warner
- Senior = Logan Steffke / Kelly David / Brooke Huber & Troy Stratton / Brian Bleise / Jordan Rau with
- Ms. Congeniality Caitlyn Bellinger
- Mr. Nice Guy Nathaniel Bellinger

This year's Homecoming Theme: Island Paradise

Spirit Days:

- Monday-Surf's up
- Tuesday-Biker Day
- Wednesday-Color Day
- o Elementary-Green

- o Jr High-Yellow
- o Freshman-Red
- o Sophomore-Tye Dye
- o Junior-Pink
- o Senior-Black
- Thursday-Pirate Day
- Friday-Blue and White Day

DECORATE YOUR YARD CONTEST!!!! Yards will be judged on Friday, October 9, 2009. The winner will be announced at the game!

Homecoming Parade: October 9, 2009 at KC Hall. Parade begins at 4:00
Homecoming Dance: October 10, 2009 at CMU's Rotunda Room. Pictures begin at 7:00. The Dance begins at 7:30 and ends at 11:00.

Meet Our Newest Staff Member



John was born in Flint, Michigan. He moved to the Traverse City area approximately 15 years ago. He is married with 3 children: Taylor 14, Brooke 7 and Kelly 5.

Taylor, like his dad, is a hockey player at the Grand Traverse Hockey Association. Brooke and Kelly, although not formally a member of any association, love to dance. John's wife Rachel is a school bus driver at Traverse City Public Schools and also teaches Drivers Education at Streetwise Driving School in Traverse City.

John received Bachelors degrees in Marketing and Business Administration from Northwood University in Midland. He then went on to earn Masters degrees in both Curriculum and Instruction and School Administration from Ferris State University. He has teaching certificates in Marketing, Business Service Technology and Drivers Education and Traffic Safety. He is currently working on a Doctoral degree in Teacher Leadership and Technology in Education.

John is an Adjunct Professor at CMU. He teaches a curriculum that prepares teachers to become Drivers Education Teachers as well as First Year Experience classes. He works as a Drivers Education Instructor at Courtesy Driving School. He also teaches Technology and Economics at Baker College.

When John is not working he loves to spend time with his family. They are his most prized treasure. They love to camp, canoe and spend time at their cottage on Lake St. Helen. John also loves snowmobiling and watching his son and the Redwings play hockey.

He is very excited to be a part of Beal City Public Schools and looking forward to getting more involved.

AGGIE BAND TAILGATE

Beal City Bands TEMPO Club is hosting the 3rd annual band homecoming tailgate following the parade for current band members and families, band alumni and families, and school staff. Please join us outside the band room off Elias Road at 5 PM for hot dogs, chili, and pre-game camaraderie.

MEAP Testing

It's that time of year again! MEAP assessments for students in grades 3 – 9 will start on Tuesday, October 13 and end on Thursday, October 29. It is very important for your child to be in attendance during the entire school year, but especially during MEAP testing dates. Certain subject tests are given ONLY on certain days. We also need to have all tests completed and shipped off on time or face late fees.

Please observe the following suggestions to help insure your child's success:

Put Them To Bed – Sleepy children have a tough time succeeding academically. For most school children, 10 hours of sleep every night is best.

Give Them "Brain Food" – A healthy breakfast helps to fuel the brain. Food high in fat or sugar does NOT provide the nutrients children need to do their best.

Encourage, Don't Pressure – Too much pressure can cause test anxiety.

Aim High – Encourage children to do their best and help them believe that they will do well.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

October 5, Monday	PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm in Title Classroom
October 5 – 9	Homecoming Spirit Week
October 9, Friday	Homecoming Football Game, 7:00 pm
October 15, Thursday	Pizza Parent Night, 5:30 – 7:30 pm, Media Center
October 29, Thursday	PTO Walk-a-thon (rescheduled from September)
October 30, Friday	Elementary Halloween Parties
November 6, Friday	1st Marking Period Ends, ½ day for students, no lunch
November 9 – 12	PTO Book Fair
November 12, Thursday	Parent Teacher Conferences, No School for Students

Asbestos Management Plan available for review

Our school district has conducted an extensive asbestos survey of all of our buildings. Based on the finding of this inspection, a comprehensive management plan was drafted. This plan details the response actions that the district will be taking regarding asbestos containing materials found in our buildings.

This plan is available for inspection at our offices without cost or restriction during normal business hours. If you desire to have a personal copy, please notify the main administrative office and it will be supplied to you within 5 working days at a cost of \$.30 per page.

Our main administrative office is located at: 3180 W Beal City Rd. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858.

We endeavor to make our schools a safe place in which students can learn. Our procedures for dealing with this problem reflect that concern. Please let us know if we can answer any questions.

Champions Trophy Case



The time had come to add additional trophy cases to the school to house our many accomplishments over time. The trophy cases that surround our school lobby had become overcrowded and unappealing to the passerby, so with donations made by the families of Matt Sharrar and Fred Straus, and the support of the BCAA and Beal City Public School's Athletic Department, a Champions Trophy case was built to house our MHSAA State Championship and State Runner-up trophies. This allowed us to make additional space within our other trophy cases and allows us to show off those team's accomplishments and showcase those championship teams.

Superintendent, Bill Chilman worked with Athletic Director, Aarron Butkovich, Maintenance /Transportation Director,

John Graham and local builders Kurt Schafer and Gary Hauck on the design of the trophy case. After months of planning and looking at different trophy cases, local builder Gary Hauck handcrafted the beautiful Champions Trophy case in the center of our school lobby. This trophy case is a real piece of art that adds a ton of class to an already classy school.

Coaches say thank you! Pictured above are five of the six coaches that helped guide teams to championships. Pictured are coaches with the trophy case. (L-R: Ben Steele, Lou Rau, Tom Lavoie, Ron Schafer, and Brad Antcliff Not pictured is Robert Banninger). Coach Lou Rau led the football team in 2001 Football State Runner-up and 2003 Football State Runner-up; Coach Brad Antcliff, 2009 Baseball State Champion; Coach Ben Steele, 1987 Football State Runner-up and 1994 Football State Champion; Coach RJ Schafer, 1993 Baseball State Champion; Coach Tom Lavoie, 1988 Boys Basketball State Runner-up and 1989 Boys basketball State Runner-up. Not pictured is Coach Robert Banninger, 1958 Track State Runner-up.

Veteran's Day Ceremony

Beal City Public Schools will be hosting a Veterans Day ceremony to honor Veterans and present members from all branches of the military. If you are a veteran, current member of the military please attend the Veterans Day ceremony held in the Beal City High School gymnasium starting at 10:00 a.m. on November 11, 2009. The whole program will only last about 20 -30 minutes. The entire community is invited and if you know of someone who is a veteran or a member of the military please let them know about the ceremony, because we would love to have all of you attend the Veteran ceremony to honor those who have fought and are fighting for our country and our way of life here in the USA.

Encouraging your child's academic success!

*Encourage your child to read: It's the single most important thing you can do to help your child succeed in school. Read aloud to your baby right from the start. Babies love to hear your voice, look at pictures and touch the pages. As your child grows older, make reading together part of your daily routine.

*Talk with your child: Take advantage of everyday opportunities to talk with your child when you are walking, riding in a car, eating dinner or shopping, for example. Children who aren't drawn into conversation or encouraged to talk often have problems learning to read, which can lead to other problems in school.

*Monitor homework: Identify a special place for your child to study. Set a regular time and check in once in a while to see if your child needs help.

*Monitor TV viewing and video game playing: Set limits on the amount of time your child spends watching TV and playing video games. Spend time watching TV with your child and talking about what you are watching together.

*Encourage your child to use the library: Go to your local library together; obtain a library card for your child; introduce your child to the librarian; and check out books for both of you.

*Help your child learn to use the Internet safely and effectively: Spend time online with your child. If you don't have a computer at home, check to see if your local library has computers that you and your child can use.

*Encourage your child to be responsible and to work independently: Help your child choose activities that build his or her knowledge, responsibility and independence; monitor what your child does after school, in the evenings and on weekends.

*Encourage active listening: Listen to your child's ideas and respond. This type of give-and-take at home is likely to help your child participate and be interested at school.

Foster Grandmothers Walk The Big Bridge

Grandma Linda Billings and Grandma Margaret Fick met their goal of walking more than five miles across Mackinac Bridge over Labor Day weekend. They continue to stay in shape by chasing after our kindergarten students during the week. They are excellent role models and an inspiration to all of us.



Please save your Campbell Soup labels and Box Tops for Education to help Mayes Elementary "buy" needed school items.

Please send in labels and box tops to the elementary office. Information and a list of eligible products for either program can be found at www.labelsforeducation.com or www.boxtops4education.com. Thank you!

German LINKS Exchange Program

Once again our school is participating in the German LINKS Student Exchange Program sponsored by our Gratiot Isabella Intermediate School District. Nine Beal City juniors and one senior high school student and their families will be hosting ten German students from the town of Hagenow in Germany. The German students will arrive in Michigan on October 14 for a two week visit. We will introduce them to our school with a welcome breakfast on the morning of Thursday the 15th. During their visit, the German students will attend classes with their host student and experience an American school day. The Germans will also travel to Chicago for two days of sightseeing and shopping in a major American Midwest city. Back in Michigan, our guests will visit Mackinac Island and take a carriage ride around the island.

A trip to Lansing is also on their schedule where they will visit the Michigan Historical Museum and our State Capitol. The German visitors will see some of our educational opportunities with a tour of the Mt Pleasant Technical Center as well as a tour of the CMU campus. The Germans will enjoy a lunch in a university food commons. The second weekend of the exchange visit will be filled with family activities. German students will be coming to our sporting events, practices, participating in family life and experiencing our American culture.

In the spring the Beal City students will travel to Hagenow, Germany to learn about the German people and culture. Our students will be staying in the homes of the students they have hosted in October.

“Central News”

A Quarterly Newsletter for Preschools & K-12 Schools

H1N1 Flu Update

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) anticipates there will be an increase in H1N1 (Swine) Influenza this fall. Local health departments are working with State and Federal health officials to develop response plans – targeting ways to prevent spread of the illness.

The Central Michigan District Health Department (which covers Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola and Roscommon Counties) will be working with school partners focusing on two strategies: 1) non-vaccination, and 2) vaccination.

Non-Vaccination Strategy for Schools

- Teaching students and teachers proper hygiene, such as the importance of covering their cough (by sneezing into their elbow), washing hands frequently and keeping their hands away from their face.
- Students or staff with influenza-like illness (fever with a cough or sore throat) should stay home. *Important note to parents:* To assist your child's school in reporting possible communicable diseases to the health department and prevent the spread of illness, please be as detailed as possible when describing your child's illness when you report it to school personnel. It is also a good idea to have a back-up daycare plan for when your child is sick and unable to go to school or daycare.

Vaccination Strategy to Control Influenza for Schools

All children are encouraged to receive the seasonal influenza vaccine as soon as it is available. It is anticipated that local health departments will be receiving a shipment of the H1N1 vaccine in mid-October. The CDC's recommendations for the target groups who should receive the vaccine include:

- All people 6 months through 24 years of age
- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months
- Health care and emergency services personnel
- People ages 25 through 64 years with certain health conditions

The health department is planning to offer vaccination clinics in K-12 schools. The immunization will be administered to those children who have a signed parental consent. Vaccinations will also be available at area doctors' offices. All students are encouraged to receive the H1N1 vaccine.

The parental consent form for the swine flu vaccination is not currently available. As soon as the form is available schools and parents will be notified as to how the consent forms will be distributed.

The H1N1 vaccine will be available from most doctors, some pharmacies, and your local health department.

It is the current recommendation from the CDC that schools not be closed if a case of H1N1 influenza infection is confirmed. However, a school might be dismissed if there is a high rate of faculty or student absenteeism that interferes with the school's ability to function.



Central Michigan District
Health Department

Proudly serving the local
residents of Arenac, Clare,
Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola and
Roscommon Counties since
1970.

SPECIAL EDITION

August 19, 2009

For more
information on
H1N1 influenza,
log onto our
website at
www.cmdhd.org.

Coming Soon...

Seasonal flu clinic
schedules and
educational
information.

Helpful Websites

www.cmdhd.org

www.michigan.gov/flu

www.cdc.gov/h1n1

www.ready.gov

www.pandemicflu.gov

www.henrythehand.com

www.immunize.org

Please Note:
H1N1Influenza
information/guidance
documents are updated
on MDCH and CDC
websites as new
information becomes
available.

Board Briefs

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

- ✍ General Fund payments of \$250,218.38, Hot Lunch payments of \$1,081.34, Capital Projects/General Fund payments of \$19,827.00 and Athletic Fund payments of \$6,300.92.
- ✍ The Tribal Grant requests as presented.
- ✍ The 1st reading of the Neola New, Revised and Replacement Policies as presented.
- ✍ The Farm Land Lease Agreement as presented.
- ✍ Hire John Ayres as the Driver's Ed. Instructor.
- ✍ The following coaching recommendations: Kaleb House Varsity Boys Track, Dave King – Varsity Girls Track, Carrie House – 7th Gr. Girls Basketball.
- ✍ Hire Rich Wight as a part-time bus driver.
- ✍ The overnight field trip request from YIG.

Log onto www.bealcityschools.net for the latest announcements and updates on school events, sports, and for teacher contact information.

School Supplies

Dear Parents,

While most parents expect to donate items at the elementary level, few think about the necessity at the secondary level, and we junior high and high school teachers do not often ask. However, we need your help. In these difficult economic times, with decreasing school budgets, classroom supplies are becoming more difficult to obtain. We understand that for many of you, the economy is even tighter than for schools, but we are hoping that if everyone helps, the burden will be lightened for all. Please consider purchasing some of the items below and sending them to school with your child(ren).

- pens
- pencils
- eraser caps
- colored pencils
- markers
- crayons
- lined paper
- glue/glue sticks
- scissors
- rulers
- index cards
- Kleenex/tissues

*Thank you so much. We truly appreciate your support.
Beal City Secondary Teachers*

Beal City Taking a Step in the Right Direction with “Write Steps” Program

This fall Beal City Elementary School kicked off the new school year with a new writing program. The “Write Steps” program was created to assist teachers in using the most current techniques to meet the Michigan English Language Arts Grade Level Content Expectations. Lessons in the program contain practical writing strategies that create a high-success atmosphere that improves the writing of all students. Teachers in grades K-6 attended a workshop on September 2 to introduce them to their new writing kits. These teachers will continue to receive coaching from the “Write Steps” staff during the school year. Parents are invited to attend a “Parent Pizza Night” where an informational meeting will be held on Thursday, October 15 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the school Media Center. This will allow a trainer to introduce parents to our new writing curriculum. We are very excited to share this awesome new program with Beal City Elementary parents and students.

MY CHILD'S ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Homework Tips for Parents

- Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework.

Avoid having your child do homework with the television on or in places with other distractions, such as people coming and going.

- Make sure the materials your child needs, such as paper, pencils and a dictionary, are available.

Ask your child if special materials will be needed for some projects and get them in advance.

- Help your child with time management.

Establish a set time each day for doing homework. Don't let your child leave homework until just before bedtime. Think about using a weekend morning or afternoon for working on big projects, especially if the project involves getting together with classmates.

- Be positive about homework.

Tell your child how important school is. The attitude you express about homework will be the attitude your child acquires.

- When your child does homework, you do homework.

Show your child that the skills they are learning are related to things you do as an adult. If your child is reading, you read too. If your child is doing math, balance your checkbook.

- When your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers.

Giving answers means your child will not learn the material. Too much help teaches your child that when the going gets rough, someone will do the work for him or her.

- When the teacher asks that you play a role in homework, do it.

Cooperate with the teacher. It shows your child that the school and home are a team. Follow the directions given by the teacher.

- If homework is meant to be done by your child alone, stay away.

Too much parent involvement can prevent homework from having some positive effects. Homework is a great way for kids to develop independent, lifelong learning skills.

- Stay informed.

Talk with your child's teacher. Make sure you know the purpose of homework and what your child's class rules are.

- Help your child figure out what is hard homework and what is easy homework.

Have your child do the hard work first. This will mean he will be most alert when facing the biggest challenges. Easy material will seem to go fast when fatigue begins to set in.

- Watch your child for signs of failure and frustration.

Let your child take a short break if she is having trouble keeping her mind on an assignment.

- Reward progress in homework.

If your child has been successful in homework completion and is working hard, celebrate that success with a special event (e.g., pizza, a walk, a trip to the park) to reinforce the positive effort.

Creating 21st Century Learners

Beal City Public School has turned a vision into reality. A parent survey was given to parents at Parent-Teacher Conferences last year and one of the things that came out of that survey was the need for a computer class for the younger students in our school district. The Elementary School Improvement team, Superintendent Bill Chilman and his administrative team worked diligently to create a new computer lab for Beal City elementary students.

With current budget constraints, some very thrifty means were used to bring this lab to fruition. With most of the funding coming from the school's general fund, part of the funding was made possible through federal ARRA recovery dollars. Then the project took on a collaborative approach to getting used furniture from other schools that were closing elementary schools down. An email was sent out asking if schools were looking to get rid of tables, chairs, and a screen. The response was great and we were able to get the items needed at a fraction of the price. Our technology director did some comparison shopping prior to purchasing the computer hardware and software programs and was able to get a great deal. The computer lab shares space with our current elementary music program in a large room.

The Computer class will be one of the elementary school students' specials classes for the 2009-2010 school year. This year rather than having one Library class, two PE classes, and two Music classes a week like they did during the 2008-2009 school year, students' will have one split Library / Spanish class, one Music class one Computer class, and two PE classes per week.

MENU

Spirit Week

October 5 - 9, 2009

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/fun, 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 – Winning Scalloped potatoes/ham or Aggie chicken patty/bun, dessert, dinner roll, blue and white jello, school spirit salad bar, fruit and milk.

October 12 - 16, 2009

National School Lunch Week - Around the World

Monday: Breakfast – waffle sticks, muffin, yogurt, donut, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. Lunch – Taste of Italy – Leaning Tower pizza rolls, breadstick, Caesar Salad on the salad bar, Coliseum pears and milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast – scrambled eggs/ham, hash brown, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. Lunch – Oriental Day – sweet and sour chicken wrap or uncrustables, Oriental rice, hot vegetable, salad bar, fruit and milk.

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

Lunch – Caribbean Holiday – Cuban bbq pork sandwich or chicken patty/bun, salad bar, chunk pineapple and milk.

Thursday: Breakfast – bagel sausage pizza, cheese stick, granola bar, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. Lunch – Greek Day – Beef Gyro or hamburger/bun, Greek Salad on the salad bar, fruit and milk.

Friday: Breakfast – hot pocket, yogurt, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. Lunch – Mexican Madness – South of the border pizza or peanut butter and jelly sandwich, dessert, salad bar, fruit and milk.

October 19 - 23, 2009

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 – popcorn chicken or baked potato, dinner roll, hot vegetable, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast – pretzel/cheese, granola bar, yogurt, 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.

October 26 - 30 2009

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

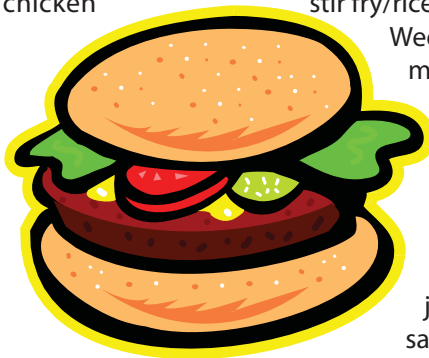
Tuesday: Breakfast – scrambled eggs/ham, hash brown, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. Lunch: chicken stir fry/rice or chicken parmesan, rice, peanut butter, and jelly sandwich, salad bar, fruit and milk.

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.