



# The Aggie Express

A publication of the Beal City Public Schools

www.bealcityschools.net

January, 2012

---

---

## School Board Members Honored

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 they 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. It's the foundation on which our democracy was built. 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 for continuous improvement in student learning. The job of a school board member is tough, the hours long, and the thanks few and far between. Too often we're quick to criticize school board members without really understanding the complex nature of their decisions. Now's the time to thank them for their untiring efforts.

School board members come from a variety of backgrounds, yet they share a common goal—helping students achieve in school and life. As a state, Michigan has faced many challenges, but the key to a brighter future is a strong public education system.

The month of January marks the annual observance of School Board Recognition Month. This is a time to show our appreciation and begin to better understand how local trustees work together to prepare today's students to be tomorrow's leaders. In January, join with others from throughout our district and state to salute the men and women who provide grassroots governance of public schools.

Ed VanAvery has resigned as a school board member due to other commitments. Kari Rojas, who was a past board member, was interviewed and appointed to replace Ed on the Board. We thank Ed for his dedication to Beal City Schools and welcome Kari back on the Board.

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

Frank Fox	11 years
Terry Hutchinson	10 years
Robert Pasch	8 years
Rod Cole	5 year
Denise McBride	3 year
Jane Finnerty	1 year
Kari Rojas	4 months +4 ½ years previously

### Thank You Beal City Community

I would like to thank the community for all your prayers, love and support during this difficult time. I greatly appreciate your kindness and gifts such as food, gas and gift cards. Most of all, thank you for taking care of my children when I was unable to. I am blessed to be part of this community.

-Karen Reeves

### **Wounded Warrior Project Penny Push A Huge Success**

The 3rd and 4th graders in Ms. Natzel's classroom are happy to report the final results from their 3 week penny push for the Wounded Warrior Project. The students collected and counted \$1018.18 that will be directly donated to the Wounded Warrior Project. Elementary students donated coins and bills to support the charity. Mrs. Smith's second graders were the overall penny push winners. They were treated to popcorn and an extra recess before Christmas break. Once again this community has shown its generosity and compassion for others! Thank you for your continued support!

### **Christmas Outreach 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.

### **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 our kids safe and warm.

### **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.

### **Santa's Shop**

There were lots of Santa's elves scurrying across the gym stage making last minute purchases on December 15. Students were clutching many lists and checking them twice with the help of our terrific PTO. We appreciate the PTO providing the gift items and volunteers to assist students with making these very special purchases.

### **Holiday Program Is A Hit!**

A capacity crowd filled the Mayes Elementary School gym for the annual holiday program on December 21st. Prior to the program, the elementary school hosted our semi-annual Senior Citizens Reception. Community members were able to warm up with a cup of coffee and enjoy a variety of treats, while listening to musical accompaniment from our awesome high school Jazz Band under the direction of Mr. Lowe. Our thanks to the PTO for their assistance with setting up, serving, and cleaning up the gym. We also appreciate all the wonderful parents that baked the delicious treats we enjoyed. Our thanks also goes out to Mr. Dan Beckwith, our K-6 students, and staff for an outstanding performance! And most of all, we would like to give a big THANK YOU to Mrs. Amy Sharrar, elementary music teacher, for preparing the students and putting on such a wonderful holiday program, showcasing all our great kids.

### **ELEMENTARY CALENDAR**

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Tuesday, January 3   | -Classes resume  |
| Friday, January 6    | -Marshall Music Co. will be testing 5th graders for instruments  |
|                      | -Elvis is in the building! Elvis makes a return visit to celebrate his birthday in the cafeteria with the students |
| Monday, January 9    | -PTO meeting, 6:30 p.m. in Mrs. Davis' Classroom   |
| Thursday, January 19 | -Café Night, 6:30-7:30p.m., 1st Grade Poetry & Reading Strategy Night  |
| Friday, January 20   | -End of first semester/second marking period: half day for students with dismissal at 11:40 a.m. NO Lunch          |
| Tuesday, January 24  | -K-6th Grade Report Cards will be sent home in student planners  |



## **Beal City Student Council Sponsors Food Drive for The Weidman Food Pantry**

During the month of November, Student Council sponsored a food drive for the Weidman Food Pantry. The classrooms at Mayes Elementary competed to bring in the most food items. At the secondary level, the competition was a little different. The seventh and eighth graders were a team. The Seniors and Sophomores were paired up and the Juniors and Freshman made up the third team. Altogether, the schools brought in more than 500 nonperishable food items and toiletries for the Weidman Food Pantry. Thanks again to all of our community members that helped out such a great cause. The elementary class that brought in the most items was Mr. Bloniarczyk's fifth grade class. The Senior and Sophomore team won at the secondary school.

## **Beal City Student Council Sells T-Shirts for HATS**

The past few years, Student Council has taken on an extra challenge during Homecoming by coordinating a charity fundraiser. It began when the class of 2011 decided to turn Class Color Day during Spirit Week into a fundraiser for Breast Cancer. The next year, Student Council took the idea and made it a high school fundraiser by raising money for Autism Speaks. This year, they chose the HATS program, Humane Animal Treatment Society. With the help of Hangin by a Thread Embroidery of Weidman, a t-shirt design was created and classes purchased them for the class color day during Spirit Week. This year, they even included the staff in on the fun. Through the t-shirt sales, Beal City Student Council was able to raise \$500.00 for the Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter. Student Council would like to thank all those that supported this fundraiser.



## **Tutoring Program For Students in Grades 9th - 12th**

In an effort to assist students in academic need, Beal City M.S. / H.S. will be implementing a tutoring program after the Holiday break. The program will begin Tuesday January 3, 2012, and end Thursday May 31, 2012. We will run the program Monday – Thursday from 3-4:00p.m., unless we have school calendar conflicts. Students who are failing a class or classes, who are in need of assistance with organizational skills, homework completion, or study habits are encouraged to attend.

The objective of the tutoring program is to assist students in attaining passing grades and improve their overall academic performance. Each student will work to improve their academic success with help from qualified staff volunteers. The tutoring program is not meant to be a place for students to hang out after school; it is designed to assist students in need of academic support. Below are some general guidelines for attending the tutoring program.

- Students must bring work and relevant/appropriate materials to help accomplish the work (e.g. textbook, pen, pencil, paper, calculator, etc.)
- Students must work while in the lab; the computers are not to be used for Facebook....
- If a student misbehaves, the student handbook rules/ policies will apply.
- Rules are subject to change without prior notice.

Additional tutors would help greatly, and we are asking for community volunteers to help students succeed. Tutoring will take place at Beal City M.S. / H.S. in the Computer Lab. If you are interested in helping, please contact the Beal City M.S. / H.S. office at 989-644-3944.

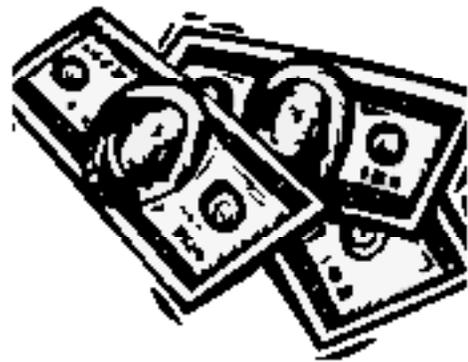
\*NOTE: Students who need specific Math tutoring will still need to make arrangements with Mrs. Butkovich ahead of time.

# Financial Aid Night

**FOR ALL COLLEGE BOUND SENIORS & SENIOR PARENTS**

**January 25th @ 6:00pm in the HS Media Center  
(back up weather date: February 1st @ 6:00pm)**

Unsure how you will cover all the costs associated with college next year? You're not alone! Join us for a presentation hosted by MMCC's Director of Financial Aid on all things 'Financial Aid' that all college bound students & their parents should know.



**RSVP to Mrs. Millerov  
by January 18th  
smillero@edzone.net  
989-644-3944**

**All college bound seniors and  
senior parents are strongly  
encouraged to attend!**



## **Covered topics include**

- How to file the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
- Information on grants, scholarships, loans & more
- Helpful handouts as well as Q & A



# SIGNING DAY



Stone Beckwith signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball at Saginaw Valley State University.  
 Drew Bechtel signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball at Oakland University.  
 Heather Griffis signed a National letter of intent to play volleyball at St. Clair Community College.

### Jr. High Girls Basketball Schedule

Wed. Jan. 11	SHA	5:30 p.m.
Mon. Jan. 16	@Marion	6:00 p.m.
Thurs. Jan. 19	McBain NMC	6:00 p.m.
Thurs. Jan. 26	Lake City	6:00 p.m.
Mon. Jan. 30	@McBain	6:00 p.m.
Thurs. Feb. 2	Ewart	6:00 p.m.
Mon. Feb. 6	@Pine River	6:00 p.m.
Thurs. Feb. 9	Marion	6:00 p.m.
Mon. Feb. 13	@McBain NMC	6:00 p.m.
Wed. Feb. 15	@Coleman	4:30 p.m.
Tues. Feb. 21	@Lake City	5:00 p.m.
Thurs. Feb. 23	McBain	6:00 p.m.

**Baseball Spaghetti Dinner**

The Beal City Baseball Program will be putting on their annual spaghetti dinner on Wednesday, March 21, 2012 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. in the Beal City Schools Cafeteria. The 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!!!

### Changes to Winter Sports Schedules

Wed. Jan. 11	Freshman Basketball vs. Reed City	6:00 p.m.
Sat. Jan. 14	V Boys Basketball vs. Clare @CMU	6:30 p.m.
Sat. Jan. 14	V Girls Basketball vs. Clare @CMU	8:00 p.m.
Tues. Jan. 31	JV/V Girls Basketball @ Clare - cancelled	
Tues. Feb. 7	JV Girls Basketball games with McBain NMC - cancelled	
Tues. Feb. 7	JV Girls Basketball vs Big Rapids Freshman	6:00 p.m.
Wed. Feb. 15	JV Girls Basketball games with McBain NMC - cancelled	
Mon. Feb. 20	JV Girls Basketball vs. Clare (after Fresh/ JV Boys)	7:30 p.m.
Mon. Feb. 20	V Boys Basketball vs Clare – cancelled	

### BOARD BRIEFS

The following was approved at a regular board meeting on December 19, 2011:

- General Fund payments of \$250,124.43, Hot Lunch payments of \$17,822.67, and Athletic Fund payments of \$6,468.09.
- The Consolidation Plan Resolution as presented.
- The Best Practices Resolution as presented.
- The Unite Website Advertising Agreement as presented.
- The 1st Reading of the New, Revised, Replacement Neola Policies as presented.
- The following coaching recommendations as presented: Jerrod Jackson – Volunteer Freshman Basketball, Krysten Barczuk – Volunteer Dance, and Melissa Zylka – Volunteer Dance.
- The 80/20 Insurance Plan for the 2011-2012 & 2012-2013 school year as presented.



# Beal City Jr./Sr. High School

## HONOR ROLL



### 2011-2012 First Nine Weeks Honor Roll

**4.0**  
**12TH GRADE**  
SAMANTHA FREEZE  
CAL SALISBURY  
LOGAN SCHAFFER  
SHELBY SCHAFFER  
KAREN SMITH  
KERSTEN SMITH

**11TH GRADE**  
MONICA DAVID  
LARISSA SCHWERIN  
**10TH GRADE**  
KAITLYN FRAYRE  
HAYDEN HUBER  
SHELBY KLUMPP  
ADDIE SCHUMACHER  
CHLOE STEFFKE

**9TH GRADE**  
ZINA BELLINGER  
BRITTANY FOWLER  
KAITLYN GOTTSCHALK  
NICOLE GROSS  
CORTNI HAUCK  
JESSICA HOLLAND  
JACOB HORSLEY  
JAMES KOLB  
SDYNEY LORENZ  
ALEXANDER MATTHEWS  
KAITLYN MILLARD  
ZACHARY NATZEL  
NICHOLAS PUNG  
EMILY SCHAFFER  
GRACE SCHAFFER  
SARA SCHAFFER  
RACHEL SCHWERIN  
EMILY STEFFKE  
JACLYN WOODUBRY

**8TH GRADE**  
WILLIAM CHILMAN  
TUCKER GROSS  
IAN HOOGERHYDE  
KAYLEE NELSON  
RACHEL PUNG  
SARAH REIHL  
APOLLO SCHAFFER  
ERIC SCHAFFER  
ETHAN SCHAFFER  
EMILY SCHRIPEMA  
HANNAH STEFFKE  
PHOENIX VAVZINCAK  
EMMA YUNCKER

**4.0**  
**7TH GRADE**  
MADELINE FIKE  
NATALIE GROSS  
NATHAN HORSLEY  
ERIC MAXON  
RYAN POWELL  
DAVID REIHL

**3.5 TO 3.99**  
**12TH GRADE**  
AMBER ARNDT  
ANDREW BECHTEL  
EILEEN COTTER  
RACHEL FOWLER  
HEATHER GRIFFIS  
LAUREN GUTHRIE  
MIRANDA HAUCK  
CHAZ HOOK  
JESSICA MCBRIDE  
ANDREW POHL  
ADAM SCHAFFER  
CONNER STEFFKE  
KYLEE THEISEN  
ALYSSA THRUSH  
TREVOR TILMANN

**11TH GRADE**  
BO CARRICK  
ANDREW CLARE  
CHARLES CLARK  
ELTON CLARK  
MANISHA COLE  
JULIANN HANDZIAK  
MICHAELA HOLLAND  
MEGAN LEY  
REBECCA MASTER  
JONATHAN RAU  
JOSEPH RAU  
OLIVIA RAU  
KIMBERLY ROWE  
SAMUEL SCHAFFER  
MITCHELL SCHUMACHER  
SOPHIA SCHUMACHER  
JOSHUA SHARRAR  
ASHLEY STEFFKE  
ADAM ZEIN

**3.5 TO 3.99**  
**10TH GRADE**  
CHASE BROWN  
JORDAN CARSON  
NICHOLAS HOOGERHYDE  
HANNAH NEYER  
ANNA REIHL  
TY ROLLIN  
MELANIE SCHAFFER  
ELIZABETH SCOTT  
NICHOLAS WARD

**9TH GRADE**  
MAKENZY BURMAN  
BRENDAN CARRICK  
JOSLIN CLOUSE  
KRISTA FABER  
LUKE FARRELL  
NICOLE FOX  
EMILY HAUCK  
MARIAH HINES  
MAXWELL HORSLEY  
JOSIE LEFERE  
SHELBY MOTTIN  
NICHOLLE MURPHY  
ALEXANDER SCHAFFER  
JORDAN SCHNEIDER  
BRITTANY SCHUMACHER  
KARLEEN SHARRAR  
JENNA THEISEN



# Beal City Jr./Sr. High School

## HONOR ROLL



### 3.5 TO 3.99

#### 8TH GRADE

LAUREN BELTINCK  
 HAILEY CARSON  
 ANDREA ESCH  
 KATELYN JENSEN  
 PAIGE LORENZ  
 SARAH LORENZ  
 ALEXIA LYNCH  
 JOSEPH MARCHIANDO  
 JACOB MATTHEWS  
 SHAWN MAULDIN  
 BRADLEY MOORE  
 JORDAN PUNG  
 KAYLA PUNG  
 JACOB ROBISON  
 CHASE ROLLIN  
 NOAH SCHAFFER  
 ERICA SHEAHAN  
 LILIA STEFFKE  
 SAMUEL STEFFKE

#### 7TH GRADE

NAVID COLE  
 COURTNEY COTTER  
 NATHAN COTTER  
 MCKENZIE EISLER  
 BRENDA FABER  
 NATALIE FINNERTY  
 SAMANTHA GARRETT  
 TRISTIN GOTT  
 ERICA HAUCK  
 KRISTEN HOOD  
 STEPHANIE LEY  
 HALEY MCMULLEN  
 DAVID MILES  
 HEIDIE NEYER  
 DAVID PHILO  
 GRACE RAU  
 ARIEL SALTER  
 HANNAH SCHAFFER  
 LANDON SCHAFFER  
 NICHOLAS SCHAFFER  
 MACKENZIE SCHNEIDER  
 DANIEL SMITH  
 ASHTYN THOMPSON  
 JORDAN VANAVERY  
 ALORA VOGEL  
 ALEC WHITEHEAD  
 TORI WILSON  
 KYLE YUNCKER  
 ZOE ZUEHLKE

### 3.0 TO 3.49

#### 12TH GRADE

STONE BECKWITH  
 KORY CRAWLEY  
 BENJAMIN FOX  
 ERIC NEUBECKER  
 TRACEY POHL  
 TRAVIS SCHAFFER  
 TODD STEVENS  
 JAY TRAINOR

#### 11TH GRADE

CHANCE CRAVEN  
 MIKAYLA JONES  
 MARGARET KOLB  
 RACHAEL LORENZ  
 CORY MEAD  
 JUSTIN PUHLMAN  
 MARGINI SCHAFFER  
 NATHANIEL SCHAFFER  
 OLIVIA SMITH  
 MIRANDA STEFFKE  
 COREY YUNCKER

#### 10TH GRADE

MIKAELA COTTER  
 ASHLEY FINNERTY  
 ANDREA FOUTY  
 SARA PHILLIPS  
 SALISBURY, CARSON  
 JENA SCHAFFER  
 PATRICK SCHAFFER  
 KEVIN STRAUS  
 ALEXUS THOMPSON  
 RYAN TILMANN

#### 9TH GRADE

BRIANNA ATZERT  
 LANDON BREWER  
 NOAH COTTER  
 JACOB FLAUGHER  
 THOMAS FUSSMAN  
 KYLE LOOS  
 BROOKE MCCOY  
 HALEY NEYER  
 MAKALIA YUNCKER

RYAN YUNCKER

#### 8TH GRADE

BAILEY BAKER  
 KATELYN BANING  
 KARINA BELLMER  
 JACOB CLEMENTS  
 TREVOR EMBREY  
 KENDALL FLAUGHER  
 MIRANDA FRAYRE  
 CODY GROSS

### 3.0 TO 3.49

MADDISON MILLER  
 LOURA PLUMMER-DIAZ  
 NASH REEVES  
 JESSICA STARR

#### 7TH GRADE

MARYSKA ANEY  
 KYLE HAUGER  
 DANIEL HOOD  
 KODIE KELLER  
 NICHOLAS KOTECKI  
 JUSTINE PRILL  
 WILLIAM SCOTT

#### 6TH GRADE A/B HONOR ROLL

MAHEALANI ANDREWS  
 RACHEL BELTINCK  
 HANNAH CARSON  
 JASON CLARK  
 SPENCER CLOUSE  
 TYLER DARNELL  
 JAMES DIETSCH  
 DALE FARRELL  
 NICHOLAS FREEZE  
 TEANNA HERNANDEZ  
 ALLI PEAK  
 REBEKAH RAITZ  
 CHARLES SCHWERIN  
 QUINTIN SMITH  
 SHELBY TREVINO  
 LAUREN TURNER  
 BRETT UPTON  
 MILES VONDOLOSKI

#### 5TH GRADE A/B HONOR ROLL

SAMANTHA CARRIER  
 JOE CLARK  
 KRISSEY COSTON  
 EMILIE EHLER  
 KATHERINE FLETCHER  
 JILLIAN HALL  
 KEEGAN HAYNES  
 ZOEY MISHLER  
 KAILEY PARDEE  
 KYLE REEVE  
 NOEL SCHAFFER  
 AMY SCHWERIN  
 BROCK SELLERS  
 CODY TORPEY  
 BLADE VAVZINCAK  
 BRENNEN WHITEHEAD  
 ETHAN WICHERT  
 KENDYL WILSON  
 KATLYN YODER

# BEAL CITY BANDS

"...in harmony with the home and community..."



## Carols & Candy Canes

All Beal City Bands performed on Sunday, December 11 to a capacity crowd in the elementary gymnasium. Key highlights of the program: a special holiday fanfare of starting our concert "in the round" by combined 7-12 bands; **middle school band gave a world premiere performance** by an exciting young Michigan composer; our **Concert Band also gave a world premiere** of a new work by CMU alumnus Brandon Nelson, *Snowshoe Priest Saga*. A recording of this outstanding piece and a superlative performance by our Concert Band is posted on the Beal City Bands Facebook page (see below)! Like our band, but missed the premiere? **Like the band on Facebook** and hear it! *Congratulations to our raffle winners: Brooke Nestle, Gary Schwerin and Marie Massey!*

## Upcoming Events

Date	Time	Event	Group
Friday 12/16	Lunches	Festive Tunes	Jazz Band
Tuesday 12/20	6:30 PM	HHS Ball	Jazz Band
Wednesday 12/21	HS Lunch	Holiday Sing Reception	Jazz Band
Thursday 12/23	3rd Hour	Carnival	Concert Band

## Approaching Performances

The Festival season will soon be upon us, as well as performances at basketball contests and community engagements: Jazz Band @ Basketball games on January 6, 13 and 24; Selected Middle School Students @ MSBOA All-Star Weekend on January 14-15; Jazz Band @ CMU Jazz Fest on February 10; Festival Winds Concert, Sunday, February 26.



## Announcement Technology

Mr. Lowe has assembled technology to use the audio-video system in the band room to display band events to students during warm-ups. It maximizes our rehearsal time while providing visual reminders for students of our activities. So far, it has been exceptionally helpful as this initiative meets them where they are as visual learners. It displays the ability to effectively use technology in all facets of our curriculum, effectively inform our students about the activity of our program and allows younger members of our program to see the impact and vitality of our program as they progress!



## Find us on Facebook!

Keep up to date with the Beal City Bands! Get the latest information performances, trends, and classroom events! Be part of the growing Beal City Band online community!

Find us on  
**facebook**

[www.facebook.com/bealcitybands](http://www.facebook.com/bealcitybands)



### A Christmas Thank You!

The 2nd graders in Mrs. Smith's class would like to send out a huge "THANK YOU" to C&C Enterprises, Inc. for their generous donation of knit gloves. The students used the gloves to make these adorable Santa Glove Christmas decorations! Donations like this help the teachers tremendously. Especially around the holidays!! Thanks again, C&C!

### 15 Students, 6 Chaperones, and 1 Backpack in Puerto Rico...Priceless

As the cold winter months creep in on us, it is important to remember all those things in our life that warm our hearts and make us smile. One of the most treasured memories I have from this year is going to Puerto Rico this summer with an amazing group of students.

In June of 2011, we headed off to Puerto Rico. There were 15 students in all. Zach Brown, Jake Christensen, Sam Freeze, Karen Smith, Adam Schafer, Jay Trainor, Michaela Holland, Liv Rau, Rachael Lorenz, Megan Ley, Patrick Schafer, Melanie Schafer, and Kassie Chamberlain were our Beal City Students. Caitlin Blake from McBain and Hanna Perry from Clare also came with us.

Our chaperones were also from a number of schools:

Sean Hill was our coordinator from Farwell. Kristin Hasking from Beaverton, Lori and Ron Schmidt from Clare and Carol Blake from McBain served as our chaperones. Our trip almost began with a delay to Puerto Rico because President Obama was leaving the island and arriving in Miami around our time of departure. When this occurs, the airport closes down and increases the security. We were fortunate to not experience a significant delay, and one of our students swears he saw the Presidents motor cage at the airport.

Once we arrived in San Juan, we headed off for a tour of the city and its rich colonial history. Within 24 hours, we had traveled to

- El Castillo del Morro (The Morro Fort)
- San Cristobal Castle
- Antiguo Casino
- San Juan Museum,
- Convento de Santo Tomás (Convent of Saint Thomas)
- Iglesia San Jose (Church of Saint Joseph)
- Catedral de San Juan (Cathedral of San Juan)
- El Yunque Caribbean National Forest (Rainforest)
- Plaza de la Americas Mall

The overwhelming favorite, by far, was the rainforest. We were able to see some impressive landscapes, sample some sugar cane, swim in a spring and waterfall, and learn a lot about the delicate ecosystem of the area.

After San Juan, we travelled to Ponce. Ponce would be our home for the next few days. We travelled by bus each day to visit many different places around the island. We went to the Hacienda Buena Vista coffee plantation that was constructed in the 19th century. It was powered by water from the mountain and we learned about some of the interesting history of the area. We went to the Tibes Indigenous site and learned about the pre-Columbian culture of the Tainos. We travelled to the Camuy Caves and took a trolley down to the cave entrance and walked through a few of the 200 caves. We also travelled to an observatory deck, a Japanese garden, swam in some beaches, and saw the Guánica National Dry Forest. It was quite a change from the rainforest near San Juan.

One of the more challenging trips was to the world's largest radio satellite located in Arecibo. The incline of the hill leading to the observatory, if memory serves me well, was at a 90 degree angle. In spite of the heat, it was well worth the climb. In an effort to cool things down, we spent the next day travelling by boat to see the mangroves and swim in the ocean before spending the evening eating pichos (puertorrican kabobs) and piraguas (INCREDIBLE snow cones).

At night fall, we travelled by boat once again to bioluminescent bay. There are only a few of these in the world and Puerto Rico has 3 of them. The bay has a microorganism that, when disturbed by motion, glows blue in the water. The effect is incredible. Although we were not able to take pictures, it is a memory that will never fade.

We ended our trip in San Juan. In our six days, we were able to practice our Spanish, see the history of the Tainos, the effects of colonialism on the island, and many fantastic natural wonders. Our trip was more than just a Spanish Club trip. We learned about history, archeology, ecology, and sociology. We learned a lot about others and ourselves. We were able to experience so much in just a few short days. However, none of this could have been possible without the support and help from those that mean the most to us, our family and friends.

As I reflect on this experience, I am again so thankful for being a part of this wonderful community. The help and support that made this trip possible will never be forgotten. There were so many people that helped us make this trip successful. We hope the next trip will be just as enjoyable. Thank you! ¡Muchas gracias!

# "Attitude s Everythng"

## Benefit

For

## Andrea Hall

(formerly Larson)

Saturday

January 21, 2012

Beal City

K of C Hall

Come join the fun while listening to the infamous Beal City bands: *Rampage* and *Foolish Dreams*. Enjoy raffles, live & silent auctions, refreshments including pop & beer and a nacho bar.

Tickets can be purchased in advance at:

*Bella's Salon*

*Hangin by a Thread*

*Beal City Party Store*

*Beal City Public School* (see

Tracy Natzel or [tracynatzel@hotmail.com](mailto:tracynatzel@hotmail.com))

Suggested donation for advance tickets: \$25 single/\$40 couple

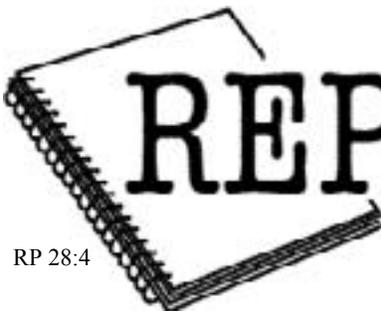
Or purchase at the door \$30/person

Donations can also be made at Isabella Bank to the *Andrea Hall* benefit.

Tom Lavoie Honor

Boys' Basketball 1988 and 1989 Runner-up Reunion

In addition to the boys' varsity basketball game on Friday, February 3rd versus the Ewart Wildcats there are going to be a couple of special events. In between the junior varsity and varsity games there will be a special presentation commemorating Tom Lavoie's career at Beal City High School. At halftime of the varsity game the 1988 and 1989 state runner-up boys' basketball teams will be recognized and reunited as a silver anniversary of the team's accomplishments. Make plans to attend this great event.



# REPORT to PARENTS

RP 28:4

## Flu Season Is Here

**B**ecause of the flu shot shortage, health experts are asking everyone who is healthy and between the ages of 2 and 64 years old to forego the vaccination this year. Here is some important information to help you deal with this year's flu season.

### The Vaccine

- **Young toddlers should be vaccinated.**

Children between 6 months and 23 months—healthy or not—should still receive a flu vaccine, as should older adults (ages 65 and older), pregnant women, and healthcare workers.

- **Some school-age children still need the vaccine.** Children with chronic health problems still need to get a flu shot.

- **Follow your nose.** The intranasal vaccine (inhaled through the nose) may be available for children and adults, ages 5 to 49, who want protection from the flu but are not considered high risk. Pregnant women should not use this vaccine.

### Prevention

- **Spread the word about spreading germs.**

Because germs are invisible, it's difficult for children to understand how dangerous a cough or sneeze can be. Be sure to stress to them the importance of washing their hands, using lots of soap and water, and scrubbing until there are bubbles—before meals and snacks and after coughing, sneezing, or using a tissue. Many brands of liquid hand soap come in fun designs, scents, or colors, and letting children pick their own can be a fun way to encourage hand washing.

- **Sing the birthday song.** Teach your child to wash their hands for as long as it takes to sing the entire "Happy Birthday" song.

- **There's a place to cough.** Certainly, children need to learn to always cover their mouths when they cough, but one way to prevent the spread of germs is to have them cough into their sleeves, not their hands.

- **Keep hands away from eyes, nose, and mouth.** Children sometimes absentmindedly put their fingers in their mouth or nose, or rub their eyes. Help your kids keep their hands away from "germy" areas—eyes, nose, and face.

- **Tissue talk.** "Used" tissues are full of germs. Teach your children to immediately put used tissues in the trash and then wash their hands.

### Too Sick to Be in School?

- **Extreme fatigue or muscle aches.**

Children who can't keep their eyes open, even after having a normal night's sleep, may be coming down with something. Add an "achy" feeling and loss of appetite, and it's likely that the flu is on the way. If your child is feeling too ill to stay awake in class, consider having him or her stay home. At the very least, alert the teacher and make sure someone is available in case he or she needs to come home. Before returning to school, your child needs to have gone without a fever or vomiting for at least 24 hours.

- **Get the school's help with make-up work.** Talk to the teacher to find out the best way for your child to make up missed work. Often, a child not quite well enough to return to class can complete assignments at home, making the workload a lot easier to manage once he or she is back in school.

Children who are feverish, nauseated, or bone-tired can't learn well and can spread their illness to others, so keep them home. Be sure that if they do miss school, it is for a good reason, and have them make up the work as soon as possible.



# MENU

January 2 – 6, 2012

**Monday: NO SCHOOL – WINTER BREAK**

**Tuesday: Breakfast** – egg and sausage on a bagel or cereal, fruit, and milk. **Lunch** – Big Daddy’s pizza, hot vegetable, salad bar, fruit and milk.

**Wednesday: Breakfast** – granola bar or cereal, yogurt, fruit and milk. **Lunch** – breakfast pizza or scrambled eggs/ham, hashbrown, bagels, fruit bar and milk.

**Thursday: Breakfast** – bagel sausage pizza or cereal, fruit, and milk. **Lunch** – nachos/meat and cheese or totally tacos, peanut butter and jelly sandwich, salad bar, fruit and milk.

**Friday: Breakfast** – pretzel/cheese or cereal, juice and milk. **Lunch – Elvis Day** – “Love Me Tender” chicken sandwich or scalloped potatoes/ham, “Blue (Jello) Suede Shoes”, dinner roll, salad bar, fruit and milk.

January 9 – 13, 2012

**Monday: Breakfast** – cinnamon bun sticks w/icing or cereal, yogurt, fruit and milk. **Lunch** – chicken strips or beef/cheddar sub, hot vegetable, muffin, salad bar, fruit and milk.

**Tuesday: Breakfast** – sausage gravy/biscuit or cereal, fruit, and milk. **Lunch** – corn dog nuggets or hamburger/bun, confetti fries, salad bar, fruit and milk.

**Wednesday: Breakfast** – scrambled eggs/ham or cereal, hashbrown, fruit and milk. **Lunch** – chicken quesadilla or chili cheese wrap, mexican rice with black beans, peanut butter and jelly, salad bar, fruit and milk.

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

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

January 16 – 20, 2012

**Monday: Breakfast** – french toast sticks or cereal, syrup, cheese stick, fruit and milk. **Lunch** – stuffed crust pepperoni pizza, cheese-filled breadstick, salad bar w/carrots, fruit and milk.

**Tuesday: Breakfast** – egg and sausage on a bagel or cereal, fruit, and milk. **Lunch** – spaghetti or chicken Caesar salad, garlic bread, salad bar, fruit and milk.

**Wednesday: Breakfast** – granola bar or cereal, yogurt, fruit and milk. **Lunch** – french toast sticks or sausage gravy/biscuit, hashbrown, bagels, fruit bar and milk.

**Thursday: Breakfast** – bagel sausage pizza or cereal, fruit, and milk. **Lunch** – taco or chicken fajita, refried beans, peanut butter and jelly sandwich, salad bar, fruit and milk.

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

January 23 – 27, 2012

**Monday: Breakfast** – cinnamon bun sticks w/icing or cereal, yogurt, fruit and milk. **Lunch** – tangerine chicken, rice, hot vegetable, peanut butter and jelly sandwich, fortune cookie, salad bar, fruit and milk.

**Tuesday: Breakfast** – sausage gravy/biscuit or cereal, fruit, and milk. **Lunch** – sloppy jo/bun or pork patty/bun, bowl of soup, pasta salad, salad bar, fruit and milk.

**Wednesday: Breakfast** – scrambled eggs/ham or cereal, hashbrown, fruit and milk. **Lunch** – chicken nuggets/mashed potatoes/gravy or ham/cheese sub, dinner roll, salad bar, fruit and milk.

**Thursday: Breakfast** – breakfast pizza or cereal, fruit and milk. **Lunch** – hot dog/bun or cheeseburger/bun, chips, dessert, salad bar, fruit and milk.

**Friday: Breakfast** – oatmeal or cereal, sausage links, juice and milk. **Lunch** – beef stew/biscuit or popcorn chicken, muffin, salad bar, fruit and milk.

**New healthy changes to our menu:** All bread, pizza, tortilla shells and chicken breading are whole grain! Salad bar includes more fresh fruit, romaine lettuce with spinach and fresh vegetables! Confetti fries both sweet potato/regular, along with beans and different hot vegetables weekly! Menus are subject to change without notice.