



The Aggie Express

A publication of the Beal City Public Schools

www.bealcityschools.net

June, 2012



THE BEAL CITY NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The Beal City National Honor Society had a great experience on a trip to Chicago this spring! We took the Amtrack from Battle Creek to Chicago, where we spent three days exploring some of the great attractions that the city has to offer. We started off at the Chicago Art Institute Museum, where we were able to see more than 300,000 works from famous artists such as Van Gough and Matisse. From there we went to the Museum of Science and Industry, which is a hands-on environment where you could see everything from how a jet engine works to how you move and function.

The next day we visited the Shedd Aquarium, where we saw a show displaying how the animals in the Aquarium are trained. After the Shedd, we went to the Field Museum to see the new exhibit on Genghis Khan and his empire and Sue the T-Rex. Once we all got our fill of knowledge, we were off to the Magnificent Mile and Water Tower Place to see the heart of Chicago's trade and commerce. Everyone in the NHS had a great time and we are all very thankful for the opportunity to go. We would like to thank Kelly Schafer, Neil and Chari Schumacher, and Mrs. Butkovich. Without them, this trip would not have been possible.

Adam Schafer—NHS secretary

The National Honor Society and the Mt. Pleasant Arbor of Gleaners represented by Ron, Joyce, Travis, Garrett, Hannah Schafer & other members, joined together May 5th to take part in Join Hands Day. This is a national day where youth and adults come together to plan and carry out a project to benefit the community.

This year they helped the Jim Bierschbach family by doing yard work for them. This is the 3rd year that the Honor Society & the Mt. Pleasant Arbor of Gleaners have participated together on a Join Hands Day project. Other projects have included improvements at the KC Hall, the ball fields and township park.



Football Golf Outing

The Beal City Football Team will be hosting their annual golf outing this year on Saturday July 28th, at Riverwood Resort in Mt. Pleasant. The 4 person scramble will shotgun start @ 9:00 am with some munchies and coffee before the teams head out to the course to show us all what they've got. The cost will be \$55.00 a person (\$220.00 team) and includes 18 holes with a cart, lunch, door prizes, and a day to just get out and have some FUN! There will be at least 2 flights with 3 places and possibly more depending on the huge response we are counting on. If you would like to be included in this history making day, please feel free to contact Cay Marchiando @ (989) 644-3780 or (989) 289-9932 to register your team.

November Election

There are four positions on the Beal City Board of Education up for election in November 2012. There will be a 2 year seat made vacant by the resignation of Ed VanAvery, and another 4 year seat that was made vacant when Kari Rojas decided not to rerun in 2010. Jane Finnerty was appointed to fill that seat but her seat is now up for election. Frank Fox and Denise McBride's terms are also up for election and their seats are both (6) year seats. Information on running for one of the open seats will be printed in future newsletters.

Aggie Market

Beal City Schools will be hosting a farmers' market again this summer. The market will be held on Mondays from 5pm – 7pm, beginning July 16th. If you are interested in selling, please contact Tami Chilman @ 989-878-1661 or email: chilly@charter.net. Please refer to www.michigan.gov (search for Cottage Foods Information) for additional information and guidelines.

Board Briefs

The following was approved at a regular board meeting on May 21, 2012:

- General Fund payments of \$255,624.34, Hot Lunch payments of \$11,725.95, Capital Projects/General Fund payments of \$30,947.36, Athletic Fund payments of \$4,690.00, Debt Retirement 2002 payments of \$81,318.75 and Debt Retirement 2004 payments of \$397,276.75.
- The Refunding of the School Bond Loans.
- PCMI coaching resignations as presented: Emma Schafer – JV Volleyball, Brittany Pohl – 8th Gr Volleyball, and Anne Weber – Freshman Volleyball.
- PCMI coaching recommendations as presented: Kelly David – Varsity Volleyball, and Anne Weber – JV Volleyball
- Secondary Teacher Resignation as presented.
- GIRESD Budget Resolution
- Increase the non-union staff wages by 1.5% for the 2012-2013 school year.

Learning Solutions Tutoring
Avoid the "summer slide" and enroll your child in summer tutoring today.

Upper Elementary Reading Group (up to 4 students)
Monday/Wednesday 9-10 AM \$25/session

Upper Elementary Math Group (up to 4 students)
Monday/Wednesday 10-11 AM \$25/session

Lower Elementary Reading Group (up to 4 students)
Monday/Wednesday 12-1pm \$25/session

Lower Elementary Math Group (up to 4 students)
Monday/Wednesday 1-2 pm \$25/session

Individual Sessions available Monday/Wednesday
8-9am, 2-3pm, or by appointment \$35/session.

Tutoring Dates: July 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30
August 1, 6, 8, 13, 15

All sessions are taught by Tracy Natzel a certified elementary teacher with 12 years experience. All sessions take place in my home at 1938 Oakwood Drive Mt. Pleasant,

Space is limited...Call (989) 954-5153 to enroll today.

News from Beal City PTA-Formally known as Beal City PTO

The Beal City PTO has been working with the Michigan PTA for the last few months on taking the steps needed to become a member of the Michigan PTA. Becoming a member will give us access to training tools and resources to encourage and support parent involvement and implement programs to successfully engage students, families and community. As a member of the MPTA we have the added benefits of peace of mind with oversight, responsibility, and knowledge. We are looking forward to the 2012-2013 School Year and have a lot of great programs in the works. Just to name a few, the very successful Dutch Apple Pie Fundraiser, and also in August you can look forward to a cookout during the schools open house. You can find us on Facebook @ Beal City PTA and "like us" to get up to date news, announcements, and reminders. Anyone interested in joining the Beal City PTA can come to our next meeting on May 7th at 6:30 in Mrs. Davis' room.

Beal City Art Camp!

WHEN: August 6th – 10th2012

WHO: 4TH THRU 8TH GRADE (STUDENT GRADE LEVEL FOR FALL)

TIME: 9:30A.M. - 12:00P.M.

WHERE: BEAL CITY SCHOOLS SECONDARY ART ROOM (#258)

COST: \$40.00 (ALL SUPPLIES FOR THE WEEK AND SHIRTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE COST)

ART CAMP WILL TAKE A MAXIMUM OF 30 STUDENTS.

PLEASE RETURN FORM & PAYMENT TO SCHOOL BY **JUNE 5 (Attention Mrs. Henry)**

CHECKS ARE MADE PAYABLE TO BEAL CITY SCHOOLS.

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL:

ANGIE HENRY @ x96myers1@yahoo.com 989-644-3901

ART CAMP REGISTRATION –August 6th thru August10TH

STUDENT NAME _____ GRADE LEVEL _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

PLEASE ADVISE, IF STUDENT HAS ANY ALLERGIES: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ (WE WILL SEND AN EMAIL REMINDER)

SHIRT SIZE: (PLEASE CIRCLE) ADULT CHILD'S S M L XL XXL

- *Attitude is Everything*

Thank You Beal City Schools and Community Members!

I am very lucky to have so many wonderful caring people in my life. My journey has been one that I would not have chosen, but because of the encouragement and love shown to me, it has made the road that much easier. The tremendous amount of generosity and support I have been given has eased my financial burdens, allowing me to concentrate on my fight! I plan to pay-it-forward so that others can appreciate what I have a thousand times over. No one is promised a tomorrow, I feel blessed God has given me today.

Andrea (Larsen) Hall, Cancer Survivor

Thank You!!!

The Beal City Athletic Department would like to give a huge thank you to the many volunteers that helped out with our spring sports season. Track and Field requires countless volunteers to assure that the meets run smoothly. We receive many compliments from other schools on how efficient our meets run and it's because of you, the parents and community members that give so generously of their time, that we are able to do so. We truly appreciate it and again, thank you!

Highland Conference Scholar/Athletes

Congratulations to Drew Bechtel and Heather Griffis for being selected and recognized as the 2012 graduating class Highland Conference Scholar/Athletes. They were recognized at a Highland Conference athletic directors meeting in Cadillac on Thursday, May 10th along with the other student/athletes from the other Highland Conference schools. At the event, each of the recipients were presented a plaque for their hard work and achievements.

FREE Summertime FUN – www.studyisland.com

A great FUN way to spend a rainy afternoon in the summer is working with your child and their growing mind. Children love to show you how much they know and how much they have learned. You can also have FUN learning or maybe remembering a few things as well, but you will surely have FUN watching your child's mind develop in front of your eyes.

Beal City Public Schools offers to all of its 2nd -8th grade students and their parents a FREE online study and testing tool called Study Island. Study Island really brings the four core subjects (Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies) to life in an anytime anywhere online format. This tool is used during the school year at school, as well as at home to help prepare students for the types of questions they will see on the states standardized assessment (MEAP). Study Island is an excellent way to keep the concepts and skills your child has learned sharp, while exposing them to new concepts and skills they might not have learned yet. When your child logs onto the website, you will see you have access to all grade levels. Therefore when your child has mastered the concepts at their current grade level, they can move onto the next grade level to begin introducing those concepts. Some parents use Study Island in the summer to get their children ready for the next school year by working with them on the material of grade level their child is going into the coming fall. Students love the challenge through the lessons, and then taking the tests. Students enjoy the game format and creating a competition with their parents. The lessons are full of great information, pictures, graphs, and wonderful materials to help your child learn the concepts and skills in a FUN, exciting way.

All of the students in 2nd – 8th grade have been given their own username and password. The website is easy to remember, www.studyisland.com. Accessing and navigating the website is very simple. If parents need help there is an online help link available to explain the concepts being taught and/or how to use the site. If you have any question, comments, and or concerns regarding Study Island please feel free to contact Beal City Elementary at 644-2740, Junior/Senior High School at 644-3944, or Central Office at 644-3901.

The District School Improvement Team Needs YOU - Get INVOLVED!

The Beal City Public School's District School Improvement Team (DSIT) is looking for your help. The DSIT meets once a month for an hour (6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.) right before each School Board meeting to review staff handbooks, student/parent handbooks, policies, procedures, textbooks, curriculum and so much more. The meeting dates can be found under the Board of Education section on the school's website at www.bealcityschools.net. The DSIT provides direction and assistance to the Building Level School Improvement teams. The (ESIT) Elementary School Improvement Team and the (SSIT) Secondary School Improvement Team.

Parent Involvement in your child's school is one of the most important elements to your kid's success at school. Get involved in your child's future and stay informed as to what's new and happening at Beal City Public Schools.

Current DSIT members include: Bill Chilman - Superintendent, Jane Finnerty - Board member, Denise McBride - Board member, Kari Rojas - Board member, Jason Wolf- Elementary Principal, Jeff Jackson - Secondary Principal, Jerry Ward - Alternative Ed Director, Jason Lowe - Secondary staff member, Julie Farrell - Elementary staff member, Karen Rau - Parent, and Olivia Rau - Student.

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Complaints? Compliments? Interested in joining the DSIT? Please contact Bill Chilman, Superintendent, at 989-644-3901 or wchilman@edzone.net.

Keep Kids Learning During the Summer

By forgetting about learning during the lazy days of summer, you're actually harming your child's education. Children lose a shocking amount of what they've already learned if they're allowed to "veg out" during the summer. That means that the kids who put forth just a little bit of effort are going to be way ahead come fall. You owe it to them—and to their futures—to incorporate learning activities into their summers.

- **You've got to have "the talk."**

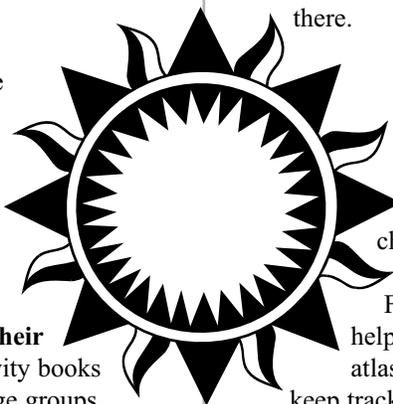
Before the last school bell rings for the year, sit down with your children and let them know that reading and learning activities will be an important part of their summer. Assure them that they'll still have lots of time for play and relaxation.

- **Find activity books to exercise their minds.** There is a huge variety of activity books available, usually catered to specific age groups. Give your children their own activity book, and let them work at their own pace to finish it. (Set a "due by" date to keep them on track.) Crossword puzzles, math activity books, and number puzzles all keep children's brains in motion.

- **Set a reading time every day.** Set aside a certain time every day where everyone turns off the computer, TV, music, and video games, and spends 15 minutes or more reading. (As busy as parents are, it's important that you participate as well, even if you just read the newspaper.)

- **Get great recommendations on books for your child.** Check out the American Library Association's lists on Summer Reading and Learning for Children at www.ala.org/ala/alsc/alscresources/summerreading/recsummerreadinecommendedreading.htm. Be sure to sign your kids up for library summer book clubs, too!

- **Be "international."** Set aside one or two nights during the summer to have an international evening. Together, find recipes from a different nation and put together a special meal. Learn a few basic words in that country's language and find a children's book or an encyclopedia article that gives information on what life is like in that country. Get out a world map or a globe and show them where the country is and talk about what you'd want to visit if you could go there.



- **Incorporate "thinking" into traveling.** If your family is able to take a vacation during the summer, include stops at a few places that sneak in learning, along with fun. Zoos, children's museums, and historic sites are educational as well as entertaining. For bonus learning, have your children help you plot out the trip using maps or an atlas. Older children can tally up the miles, keep track of expenses, or figure out gas mileage.

- **Participate in sports/exercise.** With hours of free time every day, there's always time to build in some physical activity. Even if your child can't participate in a local sports league or community-based team, there are plenty of ways to get exercise—from jumping rope to family walks.

There are wonderful resources available through schools, libraries, and on the Internet to help families keep their children's brains "alive" during the dog days of summer. Even though it takes a little bit of effort on your part, the payoff, in terms of their education, is beyond measure.