



# The Aggie Express

A publication of the Beal City Public Schools

[www.bealcityschools.net](http://www.bealcityschools.net)

October, 2012

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## **Please Remember to Vote in November**

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, a 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. Frank Fox has decided not to run in this election. We thank Frank for all of his years of service to the Beal City Board of Education

## **Millage Renewal Up for Vote in November**

At the general election on November 6, 2012 taxpayers will be asked to renew the district's operating millage. This millage was originally passed in June of 1999, renewed in 2004 and renewed again in 2008.

The proposal will authorize a millage rate of 19.4201. However, the district cannot levy more than 18 operating mills in any given year. Simply approving 18 mills does not allow the district to levy the 18 mills for more than one year. Due to a law called Headlee, the operating millage is often "rolled back" each year as the law is designed to limit the increase in the operating tax levy to the increase in the consumer price index.

Operating millage is not paid on home or farmland. Operating millage is levied on non-homestead property only.

You may be questioning why the district is levying any operating millage. Doesn't the state fund our schools, not local property tax? The state assumes that each school district in the state of Michigan is levying 18 mills of local property tax on all non-homestead property. Therefore, the state decreases the amount of state funding based on the levy of 18 mills of local tax. For the 2012/2013 school year the state assumes that Beal City Public Schools is collecting over \$244,000 from local property tax. Without the approval of the millage request Beal City Public Schools would have to figure out a way to operate with \$244,000 less.

We understand that you as a taxpayer are facing the same economic times as the school district. Costs continue to increase, putting more of a strain on the family and district budget. When considering your support for the millage proposals please keep a couple of things in mind. Operating millage is levied on property classified as non-homestead. Passage of the above proposition would not affect tax bills for primary residences (homesteads) or qualified agricultural properties. Properties that would be affected include commercial/industrial property, apartment buildings, rental homes, vacation property and vacant land. In addition, this is not a new tax but rather a renewal of millage approved by the voters in 2008, 2004, and 1999. This renewal will have little effect on your current taxes. For a business property with taxable value of \$200,000 the tax would cost \$3,600 ( $\$200,000 / 1,000 \times 18$  mills), similar to what you are paying today.

It is extremely important that the district be allowed to levy this operating millage. Please consider supporting the millage proposal on November 6th.



## Kristin Schafer - Special Ed.

Beal City Schools would like to welcome Kristin Schafer as our Elementary Resource Room/Special Ed. Teacher. Kristin is a native of Beal City and graduated in 2005. She earned her Bachelor Degree from Central Michigan University with a major in Special Education (Cognitive Impairment) and a minor in Child Development.

After graduating, Kristin subbed in Shepherd and The Chippewa Academy. From November of 2011 – July 2012 she taught preschool in Farwell for the Mid Michigan Community Action Agency.

Kristin's favorite food is Mexican food. She enjoys reading, scrapbooking, watching movies and taking pictures. Her favorite books are romance novels and mysteries and she enjoys listening to Country Music. Her favorite sport is softball, and she is currently coaching softball here at Beal City. She loves following the Detroit Tigers, the New York Yankees, The University of Michigan and of course, the Beal City Aggies. She also loves to travel and spend time with her family.

Kristin's travel highlights are trips to New York City, Washington DC and California. Her highlight of the year has been getting hired at Beal City Schools and her plans for the future are coaching softball this spring, and enjoying working with the staff and students at Beal City Schools.

## Beal City Schools Welcomes New Staff

### Cameron Gatrell - 6th Grade

My name is Cameron Gatrell and I was recently hired to teach 6th grade. I graduated from Midland High School in 1991 and received my Bachelor of Arts Degree with an emphasis in Math and Science from Hope College in 1997. Upon Graduation from Hope College, I taught sixth grade Science at Clinton Community Schools for four years and the last eleven years have been at Montabella Community Schools. I received my Master's Degree in Administration from Central Michigan University in 2005 and since have focused on earning a Master's Degree in Technology.



I am really excited to be a Beal City Aggie. I live in Lake Isabella with my wife and two children. Both of my boys will be coming to Beal City in the near future. My wife has her degree from CMU in Early Childhood Development and is a preschool teacher.

In addition to teaching 6th grade, I am the Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach. I have been coaching basketball for over twenty years and at the varsity level for twelve. Beal City has a tremendous amount of pride in their athletics and I'm honored to be a part of it.

The last fifteen years in education have been very enjoyable and rewarding for me. I have a passion for helping kids succeed and truly love what I do. I have gained valuable experience in the classroom and on the court. I feel very fortunate to have been hired by Beal City and I will give my best each and every day.



## Chadd Fletcher - Health/Tech. Ed./ Enrichment

Beal City Schools would like to introduce Chadd Fletcher as our Health, Technology and 7th Grade Enrichment Teacher and our Varsity Girls Basketball Coach. Mr. Fletcher graduated from Central Michigan University in December of 2011. He subbed and student taught last year at Beal City. He has coached basketball in Beal City the past 5 years: 2 years as the 7th Grade Boys Basketball coach and 2 years as the Freshman Boys Basketball Coach and he is entering his second year as the Varsity Girls Basketball Coach.

Mr. Fletcher enjoys fishing, boating, coaching and all types of music. His favorite book is Wooden and his favorite food is seafood. His favorite sports are basketball, football and baseball and he especially enjoys watching MSU sports.

This year he has traveled to Arizona, Florida, and Las Vegas, Nevada. He is looking forward to traveling to Lansing to watch MSU football, which he has season tickets for. His plans for the future are to stay in Beal City and grow as a teacher and coach.

## Homecoming

- Oct. 5-Homecoming Assembly – 1:45 p.m.
- Oct. 5-Homecoming Parade 4:00 p.m. at KC Hall/Line up 3:30 p.m.
- Oct. 5-Homecoming Game – 7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 6-Homecoming Dance Riverwood Golf Course 7:00 -11:00 P.M.  
11 P.M to Midnight - bowling

## Board Briefs

### Board Briefs

The following was approved at a regular board meeting on September 17, 2012:

- General Fund payments of \$289,542.06, Hot Lunch payments of \$1,396.70, Capital Projects/General Fund payments of \$73,345.64, and Athletic Fund payments of \$12,601.90.
- The following teaching recommendations as presented: Cameron Gatrell – 6th Grade and Kristin Schafer – Elementary Special Ed.
- Tribal Grant applications as presented.

## MEAP Testing

It's that time of year again! MEAP assessments for students in grades 3 – 9 will start on Tuesday, October 9 and end on Thursday, October 25. It is always 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 and penalties.

To help ensure that each student performs their very best on these tests, we ask for parents help. 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.

## ELEMENTARY CALENDARS!

October 1	PTA Monthly Meeting
October 5	PTA Pie Order Forms sent home
October 9-25	MEAP Testing grades 3-9
October 19	Elementary Picture Day
October 19	PTA Pie Order Forms Due
October 31	Classroom Halloween Parties
November 2	End of First 9 Weeks
November 3	PTA Pie Making & Pick-up Day
November 8	Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 27	Elementary Picture Retakes

## REPORT CARD SENT HOME

In an attempt to save on mailing costs, Mayes Elementary School will NOT be mailing all report cards home again this year. Report cards for ALL students will be handed out during P/T conferences or sent home in student planners for the first three marking periods. **ONLY** after the LAST marking period will report cards be mailed home. If you have any questions regarding elementary report cards, or would like a report card mailed home, please call the office at 644-2740. Just a reminder, parents can view all of their students grades by logging onto the PowerSchool parent access site, through the Beal City Schools homepage.

## PTA

All parents are invited to join the Beal City Elementary PTA, and help this dynamic group do great things for our kids. All meetings are at 6:30 p.m. in the Elementary. Listed are the dates of this year's PTA meeting:

- October 1<sup>st</sup>
- November 5<sup>th</sup>
- December 6<sup>th</sup>
- January 7<sup>th</sup>
- February 4<sup>th</sup>
- March 4<sup>th</sup>
- April 8<sup>th</sup>
- May 6<sup>th</sup>

Many of you have been asking.....?????



The Apple Pie Fundraiser will be back. Order forms will be coming home Friday, October 5th. Order forms will be due Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>.

Pies will be made **Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>** -

Please mark your calendars. Your help is needed!



The Beal City Elementary PTA continues to save Campbell Soup Labels & Boxtops. Please clip and return them to school. It doesn't seem like these would add up to much, but the school receives about \$2,000.00 a year. The money is used for assemblies, supplies and character counts programs.

#### ELEMENTARY WISH LIST-----

If you are doing fall cleaning and would like to donate any of the following items to our classrooms, we would appreciate it!

Books (especially upper elementary level)

Art Supplies – yarn, buttons, ribbons, fabric

Cassette Player

Gloves or Mittens



## Ford Drive Fundraiser Update

Thanks to everyone who took the time to test drive a Ford vehicle. We, of course, earned the maximum amount of \$8,000. The Beal City Community always goes above & beyond expectations. That's what makes our school the BEST!! The money raised will go towards the Softball/Baseball Project.

## VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM

### Honor our Heroes!

When: Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup>

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Where: School Gym

All are welcome! Lunch will be provided to

Veterans and their guest following

the program!





# Be a Star!

Compete in Beal City's Annual

## TALENT SHOW 2012

October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
7pm

AUDITIONS: OCTOBER 8 - 12 BY ARRANGEMENT

See or call Ms. Gigowski in room 204 of the high school or  
email: [cgigowski@bealcityschools.net](mailto:cgigowski@bealcityschools.net)

DRESS REHEARSAL: OCTOBER 22<sup>nd</sup> 3 -6 PM



## **Beal City Sports Boosters (BCSB)**

The Beal City Sports Boosters is made up of parent volunteers who have an interest in supporting Beal City Public School athletic programs.

The main objective of the Beal City Sports Boosters is to provide the necessary funds to support the athletic trainer, who is a benefit to ALL student athletes. We also provide funds for freshman sports including coaching salaries, transportation and referees. If funds are available after we meet our main objective, we may also review special funding requests from all Beal City sports programs (baseball, basketball, cheerleading, cross- country, football, track, softball and volleyball). We may also provide requested funding to pay for athletes meals when they travel for regional and/or state tournaments.

While other schools are cancelling freshman sports programs due to budget issues, we believe that students can benefit from sports by gaining self confidence, learning to be part of a team and developing leadership skills.

In order to do all of this, the Beal City Sports Boosters must raise in excess of **\$25,000** per school year. The main source of this funding is the concession stand revenue. We need adults and

students 14 and older to volunteer their time to work in the concession stand. If you have a student athlete attending Beal City Public Schools, you have benefited from the Beal City Sports Boosters. As a parent of an athlete, it is required that you work in the concession stand. High School students may earn Community Service Hours towards their required hours to graduate.

To learn more about the Beal City Sports Boosters or to volunteer your time, please contact us by email at [bcsportsbooster@gmail.com](mailto:bcsportsbooster@gmail.com)



## **AGGIE BUCKS**

If you are looking for a great gift idea, Aggie Bucks are always available. They are sold in \$5.00 booklets and can be used at the concession stand throughout the year.

## **Beal City Sports Boosters**

### **Officers:**

Craig Schripsema, President  
Lisa Schneider, Vice President  
Pam Tillman, Treasurer  
Martha Zuehlke, Secretary

### **Board Members:**

Rod Schumacher  
Denise Schafer  
Kris Moore  
Christa Clare  
Jill Cotter

# REPORT to PARENTS

RP 35:8

## Eliminating Bullying

**T**he latest research shows that one in three children is directly involved in bullying as a perpetrator, victim, or both.

Many of those who are not directly involved witness others being bullied on a regular basis. No child is immune—kids of every race, gender, grade, and socio-economic sector are impacted. But it doesn't have to be this way. Parents, as well as schools, have the power to help reduce bullying. Here are some tips on how you can help:

**Talk with and listen to your kids.** Spend a few minutes every day asking open-ended questions about who they spend time with at school and in the neighborhood, what they do in between classes and at recess, who they have lunch with, or what happens on the way to and from school. If your children feel comfortable talking to you about their peers before they're involved in a bullying event, they'll be more likely to get you involved after.

**Be an example of kindness and leadership.** When you get angry at a sales clerk, another driver on the road, or even your child, you have an opportunity to model effective communication techniques. Any time you speak to another person in a mean or abusive way, you're teaching your child that bullying is OK.

**Learn the signs.** Most children don't tell anyone that they've been bullied. Learn to recognize possible signs of victimization, such as frequent loss of personal belongings, complaints of stomachaches, avoiding recess or school activities, and getting to school very late or very early. Talk to your child



and the teacher about what is going on at school and find ways to observe your child's interactions to determine whether your suspicions might be correct.

**Create healthy anti-bullying habits early.** Help develop anti-bullying and anti-victimization habits in your child as early as preschool. Coach your child on what not to do—hitting, pushing, teasing, or being mean to others. Help your child to focus on how such actions might feel to the child on the receiving end. Equally important, teach your children what to do—kindness, empathy, fair play, and turn-taking are critical skills for good peer relations. Children also need to learn how to say “no” firmly if they experience or witness bullying behavior. Role play with your child about what to do if other kids are mean—get an adult right away, tell the child who is teasing or bullying to “stop,” ignore the perpetrator and find someone else to play with.

**Establish household rules.** Make sure your child knows that if he or she is bullied physically, verbally, or socially, it's safe and important to tell you about it—and that you will help. Kids also need to know what bullying is (many children do not know that they are bullying others), and that

such behavior is harmful to others and unacceptable.

**Teach your child how to be a positive bystander.** Although it's never children's responsibility to put themselves in danger, kids can often effectively diffuse a bullying situation by yelling “Stop! You're bullying” or “Hey, that's not cool.” Kids can also help each other by providing support to the victim, not giving extra attention to the bullying behavior, and/or reporting what they witnessed to an adult.

**Teach your child about cyberbullying.** Cyberbullying includes sending mean, rude, vulgar, or threatening messages or images; posting sensitive, private information about another person; pretending to be someone else in order to make that person look bad; and intentionally excluding someone from an online group. These acts are as harmful as physical violence. You can teach your children a simple litmus test about online posting: If you wouldn't say it to someone's face or you would not feel comfortable having your parents see it—don't post it (or take it down now).

Efforts to effectively address bullying require the collaboration of school, home, and community. Bullying is a serious problem, but if we all work together, it's one we can impact.

Source: Education.com Bullying Special Edition, copyright 2012.

<http://www.education.com/topic/school-bullying-teasing/>

Guest Editors: Shelley Hymel, Amanda Nickerson, & Susan Swearer

# MENU

October 1 - 5, 2012

**Monday: Breakfast** – french toast sticks or cereal, syrup, cheese stick, fruit and milk **Lunch** – bbq beef/bun or popcorn chicken, dinner roll, green beans, garden bar, fruit and milk

**Tuesday: Breakfast** – egg and sausage on a bagel or cereal, fruit, and milk **Lunch** – chili or baked potato w/ham, crackers, slice of bread/butter, broccoli, fruit and milk.

**Wednesday: Breakfast** – granola bar or cereal, yogurt, fruit and milk. **Lunch** – sausage bagel pizza or scrambled eggs/ham, hash brown, muffin, fruit, juice and milk.

**Thursday: Breakfast** – bagel sausage pizza or cereal, fruit, and milk. **Lunch** – nachos/meat and cheese or totally tacos, refried beans, garden bar, fruit and milk.

**Friday: Breakfast** – pretzel/cheese or cereal, juice and milk. **Lunch** – Big Daddy’s cheese pizza, carrots, garden bar, fruit and milk.

October 8 – 12, 2012

**Monday: Breakfast** – cinnamon bun sticks w/icing or cereal, yogurt, fruit and milk. **Lunch** – chicken strips w/breadstick or beef/cheddar on a bun, cucumbers, garden bar, fruit and milk.

**Tuesday: Breakfast** – breakfast hot pocket or cereal, fruit, and milk. **Lunch** – corn dog nuggets or hamburger/bun, sweet potato fries, garden bar, fruit and milk.

**Wednesday: Breakfast** – scrambled eggs/ham or cereal, hashbrown, fruit and milk. **Lunch** – chicken quesadilla or chili cheese wrap, refried beans, garden bar, fruit and milk.

**Thursday: Breakfast** – breakfast pizza or cereal, fruit and milk. **Lunch** – hot turkey sandwich with mashed potatoes and gravy or meat combo/bun w/cheese, garden bar, fruit and milk.

**Friday: Breakfast** – muffin or cereal, sausage links, juice and milk. **Lunch** – grilled cheese sandwich w/tomato soup or chicken patty/bun, corn, garden bar, fruit and milk.

October 15 - 19, 2012

**Monday: Breakfast** – french toast sticks or cereal, syrup, cheese stick, fruit and milk. **Lunch** – stuffed crust pepperoni pizza, vegetable, garden bar, fruit and milk.

**Tuesday: Breakfast** – egg and sausage on a bagel or cereal, fruit, and milk. **Lunch** – sloppy jo/bun or grilled chicken sandwich, vegetable, garden bar, fruit and milk.

**Wednesday: Breakfast** – granola bar or cereal, yogurt, fruit and milk. **Lunch** – breakfast pizza or breakfast hot pocket, hash-brown, cheese stick, fruit and milk.

**Thursday: Breakfast** – bagel sausage pizza or cereal, fruit, and milk. **Lunch** – taco or chicken fajita, refried beans, garden bar, fruit and milk.

**Friday: Breakfast** – pretzel/cheese or cereal, juice and milk. **Lunch** – scalloped potatoes/ham or fish sandwich, vegetable, garden bar, fruit and milk.

October 22 – 26, 2012

**Monday: Breakfast** – cinnamon bun sticks w/icing or cereal, yogurt, fruit and milk. **Lunch** – tangerine chicken w/rice or pork patty sandwich, stir fry vegetables, garden bar, fruit and milk.

**Tuesday: Breakfast** – breakfast hot pocket or cereal, fruit, and milk. **Lunch** – hot dog/bun or cheeseburger/bun, vegetable, garden bar, fruit and milk.

**Wednesday: Breakfast** – scrambled eggs/ham or cereal, hashbrown, fruit and milk. **Lunch** – chicken nuggets/mashed potatoes/gravy and dinner roll or turkey/cheese on a bun, vegetable, garden bar, fruit and milk.

**Thursday: Breakfast** – breakfast pizza or cereal, fruit and milk. **Lunch** – spaghetti w/meat sauce or chicken ranch salad, garlic bread, vegetable, garden bar, fruit and milk.

**Friday: Breakfast** – muffin or cereal, sausage links, juice and milk. **Lunch** – macaroni & cheese or bbq beef/bun, vegetable, garden bar, fruit and milk.

New federal regulation changes to our menu: All students must take a fruit or vegetable with a hot lunch. Changes to the menu may be occurring over the next few months. See new Federal Regulations in the Aggie Express. Note: Menus are subject to change without notice.

In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, Washington D.S. 2025-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Beal City Public Schools  
3180 W Beal City Rd  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Ithaca, MI 48847  
Permit No. 35



## AGGIE FLAG ORDER FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Item	Color	Quantity	Item Cost	Total
Flag (30"x48") two-sided	Blue w/ White Print		\$40	
Wooden Flag Pole			\$10	
Wall Banner (30"x48") one-sided	Blue w/ White Print		\$30	
Wall Banner (30"x48") one-sided	White w/ Blue Print		\$30	
Mini-Banner (10"x13") one-sided	Blue w/ White Print		\$15	
Mini-Banner (10"x13") one-sided	White w/ Blue Print		\$15	

*Flag: two grommets on hoist side, hoist pole sleeve*

*Wall Banner: three grommets; two on hoist side, one top opposite length, hoist pole sleeve*

*Mini Banner: two grommets top length, top pole sleeve*

Contact Denise McBride - [mcbri1dm@cmich.edu](mailto:mcbri1dm@cmich.edu) - for more information

**Make checks payable to Beal City TEMPO CLUB**

