



THE AGGIE EXPRESS

School Board Leaders Honored in January

As citizen leaders, individual school board members face complex and demanding challenges. They are often 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.

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

Robert Pasch	13 years
Kari Rojas	10 years
Rod Cole	10 years
Denise McBride	8 years
Jane Finnerty	6 years
Ron Neyer	4 year
Curt Gottschalk	3 year



Staff Member of the Month

The Beal City Board of Education, in appreciation of the hard work that is done by all members of Beal City Public Schools, would like to honor one staff member each month for their service to the students and community of Beal City. This month's honoree is Roni Sisco.

Roni is a paraprofessional at Beal City Elementary. She continually goes above and beyond to ensure that our students' needs are met. Roni comes to work everyday with a smile on her face and is always willing to do what is needed to help the team. She also serves as a volunteer coach for our young athletes. We are so lucky to have Roni on our staff.

Please join the *Beal City High School Drama Class*

at 7:00pm on Thursday, January 12 or Saturday, January 14, 2017

for the presentation of William Shakespeare's



This tragic tale of love and loss, told with Shakespeare's words and our actors' modern gestures, will introduce you to the world of the Elizabethans and move you with the plight of two teens who cannot control their own fates.

BCEF Thanks Sponsors

The Beal City Education Foundation (BCEF) would like to thank all of our sponsors and donors for their support of the Rock the Foundation Halloween Bash. It was a very successful night as we raised over \$11,000. The money raised will be added to our endowment and the earnings from the endowment will be used to provide scholarships this spring. Last year, based upon the earnings, we awarded six scholarships and we are hopeful we will be able to do the same this year.

A special thank you to the following sponsors who contributed at Level 1 or 2.

Absolute Granite	Gentle Family Dental Center
Beal City Village Store	Isabella Bank
Krista Brickner Agency Farm Bureau	JD Metalworks, Inc
Central Michigan Sand & Gravel	JNR Engraving
Charles R. Lux Family Funeral Home	Maier Family Funeral Home
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Esther Haupt Tax Service	Robert F Murray
Finnerty Builders	Schumacher Dairy Farm
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Beal City is a special community as evidenced by the commitment of the above sponsors who care about the future of our students. Please thank them the next time you see them.



**Thank
You!**



Study Sessions Scheduled for SAT

The BCEF is very happy to announce that we will be opening the computer labs to study for the SAT test again this year. We will post the dates on Mrs Millerov's door and we will need the students to sign up so that we can make sure students will be there. If no one signs up to attend, then we are not going to ask the volunteers to come and open the computer lab. These are self study sessions. But, it is so important to get ready for the SAT test!!! Below is the list of dates that we expect to have the computer lab available.

February 4, 2017 9 am to 11 am

February 11, 2017 9 am to 11 am

February 18, 2017 9 am to 11 am

February 25, 2017 9 am to 11 am

March 4, 2017 9 am to 11 am

March 11, 2017 9 am to 11 am

March 18, 2017 9 am to 11 am

March 25, 2017 9 am to 11 am

Spring Break April 3, 2017 to April 8, 2017

SAT Test Date April 11th 2017

February 5, 2017 6 pm to 8 pm

February 12, 2017 6 pm to 8 pm

February 19, 2017 6 pm to 8 pm

February 26, 2017 6 pm to 8 pm

March 5, 2017 6 pm to 8 pm

March 12, 2014 6pm to 8 pm

March 19, 2014 6pm to 8 pm

March 26, 2014 6pm to 8 pm

Kids Care Drive a Success

The Mayes Elementary students took part in spreading holiday cheer to the less fortunate in our community. In lieu of exchanging Christmas gifts with classmates, the students collected personal care products. These products were then delivered to the Isabella County Community Food Pantry to be redistributed to families in our area. The response was overwhelming. We are so proud of our students and their dedication to community service!



Parent Engagement is Vital to Student Achievement and Personal Success

According to research, the most accurate predictor of a student's achievement in school is not income or social status, but the extent to which that student's family is able to:

1. Create a home environment that encourages learning;
2. Communicate high, yet reasonable expectations for their children's achievement and future careers;
3. Become involved in their children's education at school and in the community.

These three seemingly simple steps require dedication and commitment from all students, parents, and school personnel. The resulting benefit of this investment in time and effort is well worth the future aspirations and success of every child. Please review the following list of Academic Benefits of Parent Engagement:

BENEFITS OF PARENT ENGAGEMENT

1. Students achieve more, regardless of socio-economic status, ethnic/racial background or the parents' education level.
2. Students have higher grades and test scores, better attendance, and complete homework more consistently.
3. Students have higher graduation rates and greater enrollment rates in post-secondary education.
4. Educators hold higher expectations of students whose parents collaborate with the teacher.
5. Student achievement for disadvantaged children not only improves, but can also reach levels that are standard for middle-class children. In addition, the children who are farthest behind make the greatest gains.
6. Children from diverse cultural backgrounds perform better when parents and professionals collaborate to bridge the gap between the culture at home and at the learning institution.
7. Student behaviors such as alcohol use, violence, and anti-social behavior decrease as parent engagement increases.
8. Students keep pace with academic performance if their parents participate in school events, develop a working relationship with educators, and keep up with what is happening with their child's school.
9. Junior and senior high school students whose parents remain involved make better transitions, maintain the quality of their work, and develop realistic plans for their future. Students whose parents are not involved, on the other hand, are more likely to drop out of school.

Board Briefs

The following was approved at a regular board meeting on December 12, 2016:

- General Fund payments of \$512,734.38, Hot Lunch payments of \$15,889.97, Capital Projects/General Fund payments of \$20.16, and Athletic Fund payments of \$7,267.10.
- The 2nd reading of Neola Policies – Fall Update as presented.
- The Support Staff (Maintenance) wage increase as presented.

To locate the Beal City Board of Education agenda and minutes from the monthly Board meetings, please see the Beal City website. Click on District Info, Board of Education, then click on the Board of Education on the left hand side to receive a menu. From there click on Meeting.



Start the Day (and the Year) Right!

Make giving your kids a healthy breakfast every day one of your New Year's resolutions.

If you don't have much time in the morning or your kids aren't hungry when they wake up, send them to school for breakfast. Healthy food choices are available every morning in the cafeteria for ALL students. We cannot wait to see them there!

Help your kids to make this semester a success - encourage them to eat breakfast!

Every morning our breakfast consists of these whole grain items: assorted pop tarts, muffins, uncrustables, donuts, cereal, yogurt, juice, cheese stick and milk. Students must choose a fruit and 2 grain items.

Location: Aggie Cafeteria

Breakfast time every day: 7:40-8:05

Full pay price: \$1.50

Reduced: \$.30

Remember, no breakfast will be served if we have a delay.



JANUARY | 2017

Beal City Schools Lunch Menu

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 NO SCHOOL	3 w/g ham&cheese calzone, green beans, pears, juice and milk Daily option: w/g breakfast pizza	4 chili w/corn meal muffin, green beans, garden bar, mandarin oranges, juice and milk Daily option: corn dog nuggets	5 nachos chip&cheese, refried beans (9-12 cold carrots), garden bar, pineapple, and milk Daily option: w/g cheese pizza	6 Elvis Day "Love Me Tender" Chicken Patty wing bun, "All Shook Up" fries, garden bar, apples, juice and milk Daily option: "Jailhouse Rock" cheeseburger wing bun
9 macaroni and cheese, (9-12 dinner roll), peas, garden bar, strawberry cups, juice and milk Daily option: w/g breakfast pizza	10 chicken mashed potato bowl w/corn, w/g dinner roll, garden bar, applesauce cups, juice and milk Daily option: w/g corn dog nuggets	11 scalloped potatoes, ham wing dinner roll, cookie, cooked carrots, garden bar, apple, juice and milk Daily option: (cheese) hamburger wing bun and cookie	12 beefy chicken alfredo, (6-12 w/g garlic breadstick), broccoli, garden bar, apricot cups, juice and milk Daily option: w/g chicken tenders (6-12 same) (K-5 cinnamon graham cracker	13 taco w/ w/g tortilla shell, refried beans (9-12 cold carrots), garden bar, oranges, juice and milk Daily option: wing pepperoni pizza
16 w/g cinnamon French toast w/ sausage links, hash brown, cold carrots, garden bar, mixed fruit, juice and milk Daily option: w/g breakfast pizza	17 meatball sub, cauliflower, garden bar, strawberry cups, juice and milk Daily option: corn dog nuggets	18 hot dog wing bun, (9-12 w/g goldenfish crackers) sweet potato fries, garden bar, apple, juice and milk Daily option: (cheese) hamburger wing bun	19 Salisbury steak, broccoli, (9-12 w/g bread), garden bar, sliced peaches, juice and milk Daily option: w/g chicken tenders, w/g cinnamon graham crackers, mashed potatoes and gravy w/booth	20 1/2 DAY
23 macaroni and cheese, (9-12 dinner roll), peas, garden bar, strawberry cups, juice and milk Daily option: w/g breakfast pizza	24 chili w/corn meal muffin, green beans, garden bar, mandarin oranges, juice and milk Daily option: corn dog nuggets	25 Chicken Patty wing bun, sweet potato fries, garden bar, apples, juice and milk Daily option: (cheese) hamburger wing bun	26 hot turkey sandwich wing bread (9-12 2nd slice) with mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, garden bar, peach cup, juice and milk Daily option: w/g chicken tenders wing slice of bread	27 nachos chip&cheese, refried beans (9-12 cold carrots), garden bar, pineapple, and milk Daily option: w/g cheese pizza
30 w/g ham&cheese calzone, green beans, pears, juice and milk Daily option: w/g breakfast pizza	31 chicken mashed potato bowl w/corn, w/g dinner roll, garden bar, applesauce cups, juice and milk Daily option: w/g corn dog nuggets			

News
Elvis Day is on Friday, January 6th! Come in and celebrate "The King"

6th-12th grade additional daily lunch options:
Turkey sub, ham sub, crispy chicken wrap, grilled chicken wrap, chef salad, grilled chicken salad, a berry burst parfait and strawberry parfait.

Menus are subject to change. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Parent Involvement



ENCOURAGE, TEACH, SUPPORT: These are ways parents can encourage their children to do well in school.

SENSE OF BELONGING: This is number one. Children need to feel they are a needed member of a group. Do things together as a family, and enroll the kids in after-school activities. Kids want to go to school, and see the value in school when they have a feeling of community, both at home and at school.

KIDS NEED HEROES: Children need one or two respectful, supportive people in their lives that they can look up to and admire and who influence their lives for the better. How about Mom and Dad?

SENSE OF ACHIEVEMENT AND ACCOMPLISHMENT: It's very important in the encouragement of children to recognize and appreciate the small steps children make daily, as well as the accomplishments of the larger goals they've achieved.

FUN AND EXCITEMENT: Keep learning exciting. Send kids off to school in the mornings with a hug and kiss and a word of encouragement, instead of a negative nagging, parental lecture on what they've done wrong. Enjoyment and fun in learning keeps kids coming back for more.

CURIOSITY AND CREATIVITY: Keep the wonders of childhood discovery, inquisitiveness and enthusiasm alive. Nourish and participate in the joy of learning that kids are born with.

INSTILLING A SENSE OF ADVENTURE: Adventure is what childhood is all about. Supporting children in healthy risk-taking and learning from their successes and failures keeps learning exciting and relevant for children.

LEADERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY: The ability to make wise decisions in one's life and to accept the consequences are skills children need to learn. Teach kids how to make wise choices in life, so they're able to grow in their personal responsibility.

CONFIDENCE TO TAKE ACTION: Exuding self-confidence shows kids how to have confidence in themselves. Show that you have confidence in your child's ability to be successful. Self-confidence and self-respect go hand in hand.

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Beal City Schools, in harmony with the home and community, will educate our children in a positive environment that meets individual needs and goals in order that all students successfully function in an ever-changing global society.

DISTRICT BELIEF STATEMENT

- We believe all children can learn
- We believe in creating independent, life-long learners
- We believe all children deserve equal opportunities and treatment
- We believe in promoting a positive self-concept
- We believe it takes a community as a whole to educate a child, and encourage parental involvement and participation
- We believe in ensuring a safe and positive learning environment
- We believe in and encourage diversity

DISTRICT VISION STATEMENT

Our students are excited, responsible learners who are encouraged by home, school, community and place of worship. As leaders, they are fully confident that they will graduate well prepared to meet the challenges and high expectations of the 21st century.

As successful, life-long learners and productive citizens of high morals, they work to their fullest potential to make a positive difference.

Our children begin their discovery of knowledge in a nurturing family environment. Our schools and families work in harmony to provide a safe, supportive, and challenging learning experience. Our premier educational team enthusiastically embraces innovative teaching methods and high standards of performance. Our schools are the central point of learning. Using the latest technology, the world is truly our classroom.

Our school district and community are committed to high expectations and high standards. We proactively work together to provide skills, knowledge, and resources thus ensuring a fully supportive environment for excellence in education for all stakeholders.



Reinforce Math Skills With Everyday Activities

A solid foundation in math is essential for students to succeed in school and beyond. Incorporate math into your family's daily life—without a lot of time, effort, or expense—with these fun ideas.

In the kitchen. Cooking is not only a terrific way to help children understand fractions—it's also excellent family bonding time. Show younger children how measuring two half-cups of flour yields the same amount as one full cup. Ask older children to help you cut a recipe in half or double a recipe. Have them write down the new measurements and check the computations together.

At the grocery store. Bring a calculator with you to the store when you shop. Young children can add up how much you have spent on groceries or saved with coupons. Kids in third grade or higher can help determine which size of detergent offers the best value, or whether using a particular coupon is cost-effective.

In the garage. A tire gauge is one of the simplest tools for a child to use, and can help him or her learn about addition and subtraction. Show your child how to measure the pressure in your bicycle or car tires. Then, have your child help you determine how much air you need to add or release. Older children can calculate gas mileage.

On the computer. Find activities that reinforce math skills, from computer games like Math Blaster to apps.

On the road. Long car trips were made for math games. Pick a number from one to 10 and have each family member try to find a license plate with the target number. Younger children can add the numbers together. Children who have learned subtraction can try to find one that involves adding a few of the numbers and then subtracting one.

Kids who have learned multiplication and division can put those skills to use.

At the toy store. If your child is trying to save up to buy something special, keep a chart of how much money they will need and what they have saved to date.

At home. Classic games such as dominoes, cards, puzzles, or Monopoly teach math reasoning. Sewing and building projects both involve plenty of computation. Teach your child how to measure and sew fabrics together, or build basic structures out of wood (with adult supervision).

Above all, avoid passing any math phobias that you might have on to your child. It's important for children to hear at home that what they're learning is

valuable—that all the work they're doing trying to comprehend division or fractions or measurement will pay off their whole lives.



Web Resources

Common Sense Media provides reviews of education apps.

www.commonsensemedia.org

PBS Parents has a math portal with tips, games, and everyday activities.

www.pbs.org/parents/education/math/

The **Figure This Family Corner** offers tips, tricks, and downloadable brochures.

www.figurethis.org/fc/family_corner.htm

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

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Winter Sports Schedule

JH Girls Basketball

Mon. Jan 16	6:00 p.m.	Evart
Thurs. Jan 19	6:00 p.m.	Pine River
Mon. Jan. 23	6:00 p.m.	Marion
Thurs. Jan. 26	6:00 p.m.	@McBain NMC
Mon. Jan. 30	5:30 p.m.	Manton
Thurs. Feb. 2	5:00 p.m.	@Lake City
Mon. Feb. 6	6:00 p.m.	McBain
Thurs. Feb. 9	5:00 p.m.	@Evart
Mon. Feb. 13	6:00 p.m.	@Pine River
Wed. Feb. 15	6:00 p.m.	@Marion
Mon. Feb. 20	6:00 p.m.	McBain NMC
Thurs. Feb. 23	5:30 p.m.	@Manton



Schedules are subject to change