



The Aggie Express

A publication of the Beal City Public Schools

www.bealcityschools.net

March, 2012



America and Me Essay contest winners!

Congratulations to Erica Sheahan (1st), Lily Steffke (2nd), and Alexia Lynch (3rd), our local winners in the "America and Me" essay contest. Eighth graders from the entire state participate in this essay competition, sponsored by Michigan Farm Bureau. Each school in Michigan can submit up to 10 essays. Local Farm Bureau judges determine a first, second, and third place winner from each school, and send the first place winner on to be judged at the state level. At the state level, the top ten winners receive a trip to Lansing, a tour of the capital, they meet legislators, and more. The top essay for the state also wins \$1,000!

A special thanks to the Brickner Agency for our local sponsorship!

Pictured are Mrs. Rau, Erica Sheahan, Lily Steffke, Alexia Lynch, and Krista and Mark Brickner of the Brickner Agency.

Also pictured are Erica Sheahan with her mom, Adele Sheahan, and her aunt Sharon, the subject of her essay.



2012-13 KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

SPREAD THE WORD!! Mayes Elementary School will be holding a parent informational meeting for NEW kindergarten students for the 2012-2013 school year. This meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 13th from 6:30-7:30 p.m., in the Beal City Public School cafeteria. Our kindergarten teachers will be registering students and providing an overview of the kindergarten curriculum and answering questions for parents. We will also hold our annual Kindergarten Round-Up on Monday, April 16th. If you have any questions regarding either of these upcoming events, please call the elementary office at 644-2740.

Beal City Bands



“...in harmony with the home and community...”

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL SOLO & ENSEMBLE PARTICIPANTS!

Students	Event	Rating
Emily Steffke	Piano Solo	First Division
Maggie Kolb	Alto Sax Solo	First Division
Emily Steffke & Alexis Thompson	Flute Duet	First Division
Larissa & Rachel Schwerin	Flute & Clarinet Duet	Second Division
Mikaela Cotter, Maggie Kolb & Emily Schafer	Alto Sax Trio	Second Division
Manisha Cole, Eileen Cotter & Hannah Neyer	Clarinet Trio	First Division
Melanie Schafer	Horn Solo	First Division

Although it is the dog days of the school year, the Beal City Bands are in the midst of preparing for a variety of events! Basketball games, festival performances, concerts, collegiate observations in and out of school - our kids are experiencing the very best music education can offer anywhere!



enjoyed the rest of the day hearing groups from around the state and a clinic from renowned jazz trumpeter Bobby Shew!

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

Middle School Band and Other Interested Parents: Please join us for **MSBOA MS Band Festival in Perry, Friday, March 16**. We will be performing at **4PM in the Perry HS Auditorium**. There's nothing like playing for a friendly audience!



CMU JAZZ WEEKEND

Our mighty Beal City Jazz Band recently performed at the 39th Annual CMU Jazz Festival Weekend. Our students played an outstanding program of *Blue Skies* by Irving Berlin, *A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square* by Manning Sherwin, and *Get It On* by Bill Chase. If you missed this performance, you missed a high-octane performance to kick off the high school portion of the festival! Our students

LETTERS HOME

Please join the **Beal City Concert Band** with special guests, **Ms. Gigowski and Ms. Marshall and the Drama students**, for a poignant production of *Letters Home: A Tribute to Our Armed Forces through History*. Our presentation will be on **Wednesday, March 21 @ 7PM** in the Elementary Gymnatorium.



The NED Show Assembly

On Friday morning, February 17th, the Elementary students were treated to the NED Show assembly. N.E.D. stands for, Never give up, Encourage others, and Do your best. It was an exciting, interactive presentation, which interwove comedy and yo-yo tricks with a positive message of academic achievement and positive behavior. It was an assembly that left an indelible impact on all of our students, kindergarten through sixth grade. The week following the assembly, students had the opportunity to purchase a variety of NED yo-yo's, with the proceeds paying for the entire cost of the NED Show presenter.

MARCH IS READING MONTH!

The Beal City Mayes Elementary teaching staff has planned a variety of activities in celebration of READING MONTH!! The theme of this year's celebration is Fairytales and Folktales. The staff is planning to put on a few short skits for the students to kick-off the month. As a school, students are being put to the challenge of reading a certain number of minutes for the month. Every Wednesday in March upper and lower elementary students will pair up with their "Classroom Buddy" and read together. Storyteller Eileen DeLorenzo will be making presentations to our students on March 23. Students will also be asked to bring books from home on March 20 & 21 to exchange. Students are limited to three books to bring in for the Book Exchange, and they must be in good condition. A calendar of these events, and many other reading month activities, will be sent home with students.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Thursday, March 1	Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5:00-8:00 p.m.
Monday, March 5	PTO meeting, 6:30 in Mrs. Davis' classroom
Tuesday, March 13	New Kindergarten Student Parent Meeting, 6:30 p.m. in school cafeteria
Monday, March 19	Board of Education, monthly meeting, 7:00 p.m. in school media center
Friday, March 23	Storyteller, Eileen DeLorenzo presentations to students
Friday, March 30	Student Read-A-Thon
Friday, March 30	End of Marking Period, students have ½ day of school

5 THINGS PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

A NEW DEFINITION OF PROFICIENT ON STATE REQUIRED TESTS

1. Each year, public school students in grades 3-9 take the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) test and 11th graders take the Michigan Merit Exam (MME).
2. The Michigan State Board of Education recently approved new MEAP and MME “cut scores” for Mathematics, Reading, Science and Social Studies. A cut score is the score that separates test takers into various categories, such as advanced, proficient, partially proficient and not proficient.
3. The new cut scores are higher and “raise the bar” for our students. They are intended to be a better measure of student progress toward being career and college ready.
4. While we anticipate an initial decline in the number of students reported as “proficient,” we are confident this change will be temporary due to ongoing school improvement efforts and student support.
5. If your student is reported as “not proficient,” it does not mean that your student isn’t gaining academic skills or is falling behind. It means that on the day of the test, your student was not **yet** proficient on the material being tested. Several other measures are used in our district throughout the year to insure that your student is making academic progress.

We maintain high standards for our students and their test scores are consistently among the highest in the state. We anticipate this trend will continue even with the new cut scores.

If you would like additional information about changes to the MEAP or MME, please contact Beal City Public Schools at 989-644-3901.

BEAL CITY SCHOOLS

ACT/MME TESTING

(Parent/Staff Notice)

- I. ACT/MME testing will take place in the Elementary Gym from March 6th – 8th for all Junior’s.
- II. Students, staff or parent’s not participating in administering the ACT/MME exam are not allowed to enter the testing area during the scheduled exam times. Please plan ahead and get any materials you may need from the gym, locker rooms, weight room, training room, and conference room. Please do not knock on the gym doors or enter the gym during the testing period.
- III. Physical Education classes will be assigned to another area of the school during the testing period.
- IV. The area directly in front of the elementary gym doors will be off limits to staff, students and parent’s not involved with the testing.
- V. The bells and P.A. systems will not be used during the testing period. Teachers will dismiss students by their room clocks and help clear the hallways to begin classes. There will be no morning P.A. announcements during the testing period.
- VI. We will be providing a light snack to juniors before testing begins on all three days of testing from 7:45-8:05 a.m. in the cafeteria.
- VII. All Junior’s will be dismissed from school after testing on March 8th at 10:45a.m. to leave school and go home. However, if any student or students are deemed fooling around by testing staff during the three days of testing all students will need to stay at school and resume with their normal schedule for the remainder of the school day.
- VIII. Parents will need to make arrangements for their son/daughter to be picked up after testing on March 8th if needed. Students will not be allowed to stay at school unless previous arrangements have been made.

Mom to Mom Sale 🌙

SATURDAY, MAY 5th

Location: Beal City K of C Hall

2765 West Beal City Road

9:00am - 2:00pm Admission:
\$2.00

Proceeds go to the Beal City Knights of Columbus

Concession Stand & Bake Sale available

**** 17 BOOTHS ****

***Maternity clothing *Infant to youth size clothing**

***Coats *Shoes *Children Books & Movies**

***Indoor-Outdoor Toys *Large/small Items, *Nursery
Items**

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!

Seniors!

It's scholarship season! Frequently check out the Counselors Corner of the BCHS webpage for up-to-date scholarship information.

Upcoming 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, 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. There is also (2) 6 year seats up for election. Information on running for one of the open seats will be printed in future newsletters.

Board Briefs

The following was approved at a regular board meeting on February 20, 2012:

- General Fund payments of \$334,365.01, Hot Lunch payments of \$13,535.92, and Athletic Fund payments of \$2,729.43.
- The Netbook Lab and Wireless Projects as presented.
- The Budget Amendments as presented.
- Schools of Choice 105 and Schools of Choice 105C
- The resignation of Scott Bloniarczyk as Junior High Girls Track Coach.
- The recommendation of Dan Beckwith as the Junior High Girls Track Coach.
- Umbaugh & Associates to continue work on refunding the 2002 Bonds.

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!!!

Early Spring Sports Schedule

Spring is right around the corner and with that will be spring sports. The spring sports schedule will be printed in full in the April issue of the Aggie Express. However, the JV and Varsity Baseball and Softball teams will start their seasons early with games scheduled on March 28th against Clare. The JV baseball and softball teams will host Clare at 4:00 p.m. and the Varsity teams will travel to Clare with start times of 4:00 p.m. Good Luck Aggies!!!

Spring Sports Parent/Athlete Meetings Baseball, Softball and Track

*Reminder: your son or daughter's physical must be on file at the school. Every athlete must have a physical on file before tryouts or practice begins. The physical must have been completed no earlier than April 15, 2011.

- Meet the coaches, become aware of team procedures.
- Athletic Policy updates and reminders.
- Completion of paperwork.
- Pay Participation Fees

Parent/Athlete Meetings

<u>Baseball (9-12):</u>	Sunday, February 26 th	1:30pm	Cafeteria
<u>Softball (9-12):</u>	Monday, March 5 th	6:00pm	Media Center
<u>Track & Field (9-12):</u>	Monday, March 5 th	7:00pm	Big Gym

First Practice

<u>Baseball:</u>	Monday, March 12 th
<u>Softball:</u>	Monday, March 12 th
<u>Track & Field (9-12):</u>	Monday, March 12 th
<u>Jr. High Track Boys' & Girls:</u>	TBA

MENU

February 27 – March 2, 2012

Monday: Breakfast – french toast sticks or cereal, syrup, cheese stick, fruit and milk. **Lunch** – scalloped potatoes/ham or chicken patty/bun, dessert, dinner roll, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast – egg and sausage on a bagel or cereal, fruit, and milk. **Lunch** – beef stew/biscuit or popcorn chicken, muffin, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast – granola bar or cereal, yogurt, fruit and milk. **Lunch** – french toast sticks or sausage gravy biscuit, hash brown, 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** – Big Daddy's cheese pizza, breadstick, salad bar w/carrots, fruit, juice or milk.

March 5 - 9, 2012

Monday: Breakfast – cinnamon bun sticks w/icing or cereal, yogurt, fruit and milk. **Lunch – Reading Month Kick Off** – ABC, 123 nuggets or turkey/cheese sub, confetti fries, dinner roll, dessert, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast – sausage gravy/biscuit or cereal, fruit, and milk. **Lunch** – corn dog nuggets or hamburger/bun, hot vegetable, 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 sandwich, 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.

March 12 - 16, 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** – chili or baked potato, cornmeal muffins, hot vegetable, salad bar, fruit 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 – pretzel/cheese or cereal, juice and milk. **Lunch** – breakfast pizza or scrambled eggs, hashbrown, bagels, fruit bar and milk.

March 19 - 23, 2012

Monday: Breakfast – cinnamon bun sticks w/icing or cereal, yogurt, fruit and milk. **Lunch** – tangerine chicken, rice, hot vegetable, uncrustables, 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** – macaroni & cheese or bbq beef/bun, hot vegetable, muffin, salad bar, fruit and milk.

March 26 – 30, 2012

Monday: Breakfast – french toast sticks or cereal, syrup, cheese stick fruit and milk. **Lunch** – Big Daddy's cheese pizza, breadstick, salad bar w/carrots, fruit or milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast – egg and sausage on a bagel or cereal, fruit, and milk. **Lunch** – beef stew/biscuit or popcorn chicken, muffin, 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 – breakfast kit and milk. **Lunch – HALF DAY NO LUNCH.**

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.

We are pleased to announce that e-Funds and Meal Magic are now connected!

The added benefits are: Your money is automatically put in the system for your child's use instantly; you can view what your balance is and view a history report.

If you are not currently using this feature the information to get started is below:

The ***"e-Funds For Schools"*** electronic payment service is provided to the school by a third party service provider. The service provider has a nominal fee for their service. **There is a \$1.00 transaction convenience fee for each electronic checking payment that you make.** The system carries a Non-Sufficient Funds (NSF) charge if the payment is "bad".

For payments made by credit or debit card, there is a transaction convenience fee of \$1.95. When you set up your account, please review your options carefully.

You are in full control of your account and can make a payment at any time that is convenient for you. **No payments will be allowed without your knowledge and authorization through this secure payment system.** By providing your home and/or work email address, an email notification informing you of the student's name, purpose of the payment, and the amount of the item will be sent to you each time that a payment is to be processed. The ***e-Funds For School*** site is secure and uses industry standard data encryption.

How does e-Funds for Schools work?

1. Families set up and maintain their own logins, passwords, and payment preferences. Your account information is retained in a password-protected file.
2. ***e-Funds For Schools*** will help to eliminate last minute check writing hassles, improve efficiencies, and help cut costs for both you and the school district
3. On-line payments will help eliminate the worry that your children could lose or forget the money intended for school items or that it might be spent on other non-school related items.
4. Payments from a credit card or checking account may easily be set up.
5. Parents/guardians may establish a reoccurring payment or may opt to make a one-time payment.
6. The program offers various types of payment to families that include but are not limited to instructional materials, field trip fees, yearbook fees, graduation fees, and of course food service payments. The system may be expanded to include other fees as well.
7. Your payment history for the year is available with a click of the mouse.

