



# The Aggie Express

A publication of the Beal City Public Schools

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

February, 2012

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## School Board Officers Elected

The following school board officers were chosen at the annual Organizational Meeting held on Monday, January 16, 2012.

Terry Hutchinson	President
Rod Cole	Vice President
Denise McBride	Secretary
Robert Pasch	Treasurer
Frank Fox	Trustee
Jane Finnerty	Trustee
Kari Rojas	Trustee

The School Board meetings are held on the third Monday of every month unless otherwise noted. The start time for this year's meetings will be at 7:00 p.m. This year's meeting schedule is as follows:

Monday, February 20, 2012	7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 19, 2012	7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 16, 2012	7:00 p.m.
Monday, May 21, 2012	7:00 p.m.
Monday, June 25, 2012 Budget Hearing	6:30 p.m.
Monday, June 25, 2012 Regular Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Monday, July 16, 2012	7:00 p.m.
Monday, August 20, 2012	7:00 p.m.
Monday, September 17, 2012	7:00 p.m.
Monday, October 15, 2012	7:00 p.m.
Monday, November 19, 2012	7:00 p.m.
Monday, December 17, 2012	7:00 p.m.
Monday, January 21, 2013 Organizational Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Monday, January 21, 2013 Regular Meeting	7:00 p.m.

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## 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...”

## **THANK YOU TO THE FOOLISH DREAMS BAND**

The rockin' men of The Foolish Dreams Band recently made a generous \$200 donation to TEMPO Club and the Beal City Bands. Gentlemen, thanks for not only supporting your kids, but all the kids of the Beal City Bands. You are proof that music lives on in the hearts and minds beyond school days!

## **ALL-STAR BAND**

Congratulations to **Ian Hoogerhyde, Joe Marchiando, Kaylee Nelson, Apollo Schafer and Hannah Steffke** for their outstanding participation and performance at the MSBOA District 5 All-Star Band! They joined 180 other middle school students over the weekend of January 14 & 15, performing under the baton of Mr. Bill Monroe of Midland High School. **Great performance - and GREAT KIDS!**



## **CMU JAZZ WEEKEND**

The Beal City Jazz Band will be making their annual appearance at the CMU Jazz Weekend. Our performance will occur this year on the stage of **Plachta Auditorium, Friday, February 10 at 8:00AM**. Join us for some great music on the big stage!

## **FESTIVAL WINDS**

Our annual pre-festival concert will be held **Sunday, February 26**. We will be hearing from guest clinician and master teacher, Mr. Jack Hawkins of the Farmington Public Schools. Our 6th Grade Band will take the gymnasium stage at **4:00PM**. Our combined **Middle School Band will be on at 5:00PM**.

## **WASHINGTON D.C.**

Participants, your next payment is due the Friday, February 10 and the final payment is due on Friday, March 2. Please make certain your payments are up to date. All monies must be to our travel company before Spring Break! Thank you for your attention.

## **SOLO & ENSEMBLE**

High School: Saturday, February 18 - Owosso HS  
Middle School: Saturday, April 14 - Perry HS



### **Café Night – HUGE SUCCESS!!**

The first grade students in Mrs. Davis' and Mrs. Maxon's rooms enjoyed a night with their parents reading their poetry and learning about the CAFE reading strategies. CAFÉ stands for:

C- Comprehension

A - Accuracy

F - Fluency

E - Expanded Vocabulary

The first through sixth grade students in our building have been learning reading strategies from the CAFÉ program. All of the teachers teach the reading strategies the same way, which creates a common vocabulary. This makes learning and remembering the strategies easier for our students. We are excited to have had the opportunity to share the same information with the first grade parents.

The first grade students all received a free book from the PTO. Thank you PTO!

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

February 6	PTO meeting, 6:30 pm in Mrs. Davis' classroom
February 14	Valentine Parties
February 17	NED Show Assembly K-6, 9:00-9:45a.m.
February 20	NO School-Presidents' Day Observance
March 1	Spring Parent Teacher Conferences, 5:00-8:00 p.m.
March 5	PTO meeting, 6:30 p.m. in Mrs. Davis' classroom
March 13	2012-13 Kindergarten Student Enrollment Meeting for Parents, 6:30-7:30 p.m. in school cafeteria
March 30	End of Marking Period, Student Half Day



# Board Briefs

The following was approved at a regular board meeting on January 16, 2012:

- General Fund payments of \$394,835.89, Hot Lunch payments of \$15,161.14, and Athletic Fund payments of \$2,426.10.
- The second reading of the New, Revised and Replacement Neola Board Policies as presented.
- The purchase of a bus that is being returned on lease from Holly Schools.
- To not accept the bids for the custodial and transportation services.

## **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!!!

## **Custodial Subs Needed**

Beal City Public Schools is looking for custodial subs. All custodial subs will be paid by a third party management company but will be called by our staff to cover custodians when they need time off. Hours of work will be from 4:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. Please contact John Graham at 644-3901 if you are interested in subbing for our custodians.

## **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.

## **News from the Aggie Café:**

The cafeteria will hold their annual “Food for Thought” meeting on Wednesday, February 15th from 2:00-2:45. Any parents/guardians or community members with comments, suggestions, concerns or compliments, please feel free to join us.

We encourage parents/community members to join us for lunch! Remember, adult lunches are \$2.75 and milk is \$.50. Cash is accepted at the cashier station for anyone visiting, volunteering or subbing.

The Power School System gives us the ability to e-mail parents when students are out of money. I have already started this and have received positive comments from parents. If you are interested and think we do not have your e-mail, please e-mail me: [mafaber@edzone.net](mailto:mafaber@edzone.net).

# REPORT to PARENTS

RP 35:5

## Helping Children Understand Autism

**Y**ou are with your child who is playing with classmates and you witness a child exhibiting behavior that is odd. Perhaps she is flapping her hands, making strange sounds, repeating phrases from movies, or rocking back and forth—all behaviors that might be attributed to autism. Your child whispers, “Why is she doing that, Mommy?” How do you respond?

Autism is a disorder that is difficult for young children to understand, particularly if they have never interacted with someone diagnosed with it. How you respond to your child’s question makes a significant impact on your child’s understanding of this complex disorder as well as his or her acceptance and tolerance of individuals with different abilities. Evading the question or answering it in global generalities will only further confuse your child. Here are some suggestions as you help your child to understand autism.

**Be honest.** If you don’t know enough about autism, tell your child that you don’t know but are willing to find out. Take advantage of your child’s curiosity and seek resources to help. Many children’s books explain autism in a way that young children can understand. Websites contain helpful information for children, parents, and providers. If you have trouble finding the words to describe the disorder in a kid-friendly way, visit [http://kidshealth.org/kid/health\\_problems/brain/autism.html](http://kidshealth.org/kid/health_problems/brain/autism.html).



**Know that every child is different, including those with autism.** Autism is a spectrum disorder, so no two children with autism are alike. Each child has his or her own unique skills and challenges. A child with autism might have areas of exceptional talent, as well as areas of deficit. When you describe autism to your child, help him or her understand that autism presents itself in variable ways.

**Put a positive spin on it.** Be careful not to describe individuals with autism as lacking in some important way. Focus on the positive and describe what your child can do to help. For example, say “Tony is an excellent artist. You can talk about his drawings with him by asking him specific questions.”

When relaying an area of challenge for the child with autism, help your child relate to the experience. You might say, for example: “Remember how it was hard to hear me at the airport over the background noise? Tony is hearing all of the background noises in the classroom and has difficulty paying attention to just your voice. Why don’t you sit down

and face him when you talk to him?”

**Talk to the child’s parent.** You can ask the parent for suggestions about how to help your child to interact in a way that will engage the other child. You can also learn about the child’s interests and then share suggestions with your child about conversation starters.

Parents of children with autism seek good peer role models for their children in order to improve language and social skills. Finding willing peers to interact with their children is challenging, so this could be an opportunity for your child to help be a good influence.

**Encourage interactions between the children.** If the child acts out or must leave a play date early, reassure your child that this does not mean that he or she did anything wrong. Schedule future play dates so that your child can see the positive effects of his or her interactions over time.

With autism occurring in one in every 110 children, your child is likely to encounter a number of children with autism. Precise explanations, worded positively, will go a long way to ease the fears of your child and promote acceptance for individuals with different abilities.

*This Report to Parents* was written by Melanie I. Bloom.

# MENU

January 30 – February 3, 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, juice or 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** – 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** – scalloped potatoes/ham or chicken patty/bun, dessert, dinner roll, salad bar, fruit and milk.

February 6 – 10, 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 & 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** – sloppy jo/bun or pork patty/bun, bowl of soup, pasta salad, salad bar, fruit and milk.

February 13 - 17, 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** – heart shaped chicken nuggets/mashed potatoes/gravy or ham/cheese sub, dinner roll, 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** – 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** – chili or baked potato, cornmeal muffins, hot vegetable, salad bar, fruit and milk.

February 20 - 24, 2012

**Monday: Breakfast** – NO SCHOOL

**Tuesday: Breakfast** – sausage gravy/biscuit or cereal, fruit, and milk. **Lunch** – tangerine chicken, rice, hot vegetable, uncrustables, fortune cookie, salad bar, fruit and milk.

**Wednesday: Breakfast** – scrambled eggs or cereal, hashbrown, fruit and milk. **Lunch** – grilled cheese sandwich or fish/bun, tomato soup, salad bar, fruit and milk.

**Thursday: Breakfast** – breakfast pizza or cereal, fruit and milk. **Lunch** – beef stew/biscuit or popcorn chicken, muffin, 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.

**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.

*Menus are subject to change, and no child shall be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap.*