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Friendship Writers

Each year elementary students take part in a two-week friendship letter program that builds writing skills through correspondence with friends and staff. The program involves many students, with Ms. Hammond's fifth graders coaching Ms. Benson's first graders as they draft their letters. Mrs. Frank's class then delivers letters each day to the classrooms. It is a fun and cooperative experience for all.



Budding Authors at Work

Fifth graders participated in a poetry workshop with acclaimed writer Terry Wooten. Students enjoyed the entertaining and educational program, followed by a writing session to develop poems of their own. See page 4 for writing samples.



Got Books?

During Friday enhancement time, middle and high school students "Drop Everything And Read." The DEAR program is designed to encourage young people to read for enjoyment.

Middle school senate is supporting DEAR by stocking the library with more of the most popular reading materials.

Please help by donating gently used or new books appropriate for middle and high school students. Monetary donations are also welcome for the purchase of more reading material. Every single contribution is appreciated and helps BPS students grow in literacy!



Prepare for Success

- Jim Emery, Superintendent

Each fall, schools across the state test students in Grades 3 through 9 with the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP). Bellaire Public Schools is proud that it has been a leader in student proficiency each year based on these assessments. This year however, monumental changes take effect in the way MEAP tests are scored. The overall results will be a jolt throughout the state as the number of proficient students declines significantly.

The reason for the decline is a change in *cut scores*. In September, the State Board of Education adopted tougher standards for proficiency. A cut score is the point on a scale that separates one performance level from the next; in other words, it separates a student from being proficient or not. Level 1 or 2 MEAP are considered proficient; beginning with this year's MEAP results, students must answer a higher number of questions correctly to be considered proficient.

The change in cut scores is dramatic. For example, in last year's third grade statewide math proficiency, only 35% of students statewide are proficient, while 95% were proficient a year previous.

Why change the cut score? It can be attributed to the federal No Child Left Behind goal of 100% student proficiency by 2013-14. Additionally, it is hoped that higher proficiency standards will better prepare students for career and college readiness. It was common to see high levels of proficiency on the MEAP, but then see scores drop when the same group of students took the ACT, the assessment used throughout the Midwest for college entrance.

The Boy Scout motto, "be prepared" should be applied for everyone reviewing MEAP test results this year, understanding that the bar was raised. The scores provide us a new benchmark for which to set future goals. Our teachers have been and will continue working harder and smarter while preparing lessons. The change in cut scores is not necessarily a bad thing. Rather, raising expectations for student achievement is good. As always, the staff at Bellaire Public Schools will use the assessment results to make informed, data-driven decisions to ensure the success of our students.

School Nurse Care

BPS gladly welcomes new school nurse Sue Coen. Funded by a grant through Charlevoix Hospital, Mrs. Coen will assist staff and students two days each week with health care service. Her expertise and knowledge will be valuable for students in Grades K through 12. Call 533-8015 x 225 with questions



Generations of Fun

Fourth grade students spent an afternoon at the Senior Activity Center enjoying games and community companionship.

Above: Shuffleboard was a favorite activity for Trinity Loper, Riley Clapp, Alex Hornick, and Kaitlyn Denoyer.

Below: Dee Williams, Bev Johnson, and students Jordan Harmon, Katie Slabosz, David Yuhaus challenge each other in a game of Chinese checkers.



In Appreciation for Grant Funds Awarded

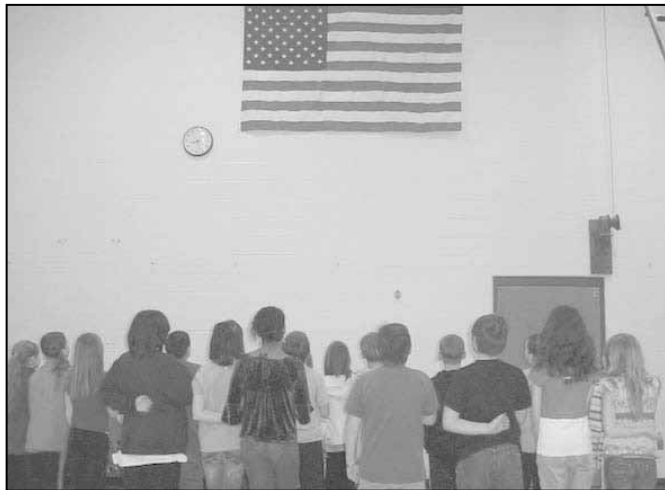
Three Lakes Association awarded Bellaire Public Schools more than \$4500 in grant money for the 2011-12 school year. Those extra funds support exciting field trips, professional development, technology equipment, and more. We extend a huge *thank you* for Three Lakes Association's generosity and for their partnership in education.





Bellaire Youth Basketball

Competition is well underway for elementary basketball. Students are learning teamwork and boosting physical fitness while they have fun on the court.



Student Pride

Elementary students recite the Pledge of Allegiance before the new flag generously donated by the American Legion Post #247. The flag is proudly and prominently displayed in the gym for all to appreciate.

Preschool Openings

Kalkaska Memorial Healthcare's preschool program within John R. Rodger Elementary School has openings for students ages 3-5. The cost is \$3 per hour and flexible hours are available. To register, contact Tonya DuPue at 533-8916 x285.

Before/After School Care

Kalkaska Memorial Healthcare offers before/after school Kids Club for students ages 4 - 12 at John R. Rodger Elementary School from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m., and from 3:02 to 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$2 per hour and scheduling is flexible.

To sign up, contact Tonya DuPue at 533-8916 x285. Provide child's name, birth date, and the hours and days before/after school care is needed.

Bellaire Public Schools 2011 - 2012 Calendar

Mar	22	End of Third Marking Period
	23-30	No School - Spring Recess
Apr	2	School Resumes
	6	No School - Good Friday
May	28	No School - Memorial Day
June	4	½ Day for Students - Exams
	5	½ Day for Students - Last Day of School
	8	Graduation 7:00 p.m.

Regular School Day Schedule:

Elem	8:05 a.m. - 3:02 p.m.
MS/HS	8:00 a.m. - 2:50 p.m.

½ Day School Schedule:

Elem	8:05 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
MS/HS	8:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Board of Education Meeting Dates 2011-2012

Meeting Location: Bellaire Middle/High School
Performing Arts Center
204 W.Forest Home Ave.
Bellaire, MI 49615

Time: All meetings are scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

Mon., March 12, 2012.....	Regular Business Meeting
Mon., April 9, 2012.....	Regular Business Meeting
Mon., May 14, 2012.....	Regular Business Meeting
Mon., June 11, 2012.....	Regular Business Meeting
Mon., July 9, 2012.....	Regular Business Meeting*

*This meeting will include organizational agenda items for the 2012-2013 school year.

Newsletter Information.....

Bellaire Public Schools Newsletter, Vol. 32, No.4, Mar./Apr. 2012. This newsletter is produced five times a school year for parents, residents and taxpayers in the Bellaire Public School District. It is published by the Bellaire Board of Education. Editing and layout is provided by Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District. Comments and inquiries should be directed to James Emery, Superintendent at 533-8141. Other school administrators include Kristi Poel, Elementary/MS Principal, 533-8916; Patricia Graham, Food Svcs, 533-8141.

December Rotary Club Student of the Month

Julie Winslow was selected as the December Rotary Club Student of the Month. She is the daughter of Richard and Anna Winslow. Julie is an excellent student with a 3.492 GPA and has been on the all A's honor roll throughout high school. She earned membership in the National Honor Society where she serves as treasurer.

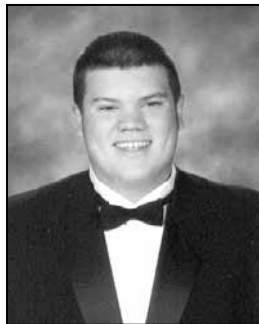


While Julie's favorite classes are math and science, she is also very active in extracurricular activities. She has participated in volleyball, basketball, and track and field in which she qualified for the state track meet in two events. In addition to athletics, Julie is a member of the concert and marching bands, student council, prom committee, and is enrolled in the TBAISD Career-Tech Center Teacher Academy.

Outside of school, Julie is involved with the tech committee, nursery, and youth group at Living Word North Church. She also donates her volunteer time at Meadowbrook throughout the year. Julie's honesty, work ethic, and goal-orientation makes her an outstanding candidate for student of the month.

January Rotary Club Student of the Month

Devon Doucette, son of Brett and Danell Doucette, was selected as the January Rotary Club Student of the Month. Devon demonstrates great character, scholarship and service to community and school. He excels in the classroom, maintaining a 3.34 GPA. Physics and technology are Devon's favorite classes, and he will put his studies to work when he travels to Ohio this spring for the National Robotics Competition with his TBAISD Career-Tech Center Manufacturing Technology Academy class.



Devon serves as vice president of the National Honor Society and is a member of the National Technical Honor Society. He has been class president for the past two years, was a homecoming king candidate, hosted a foreign exchange student, and volunteers at the Bellaire Food Pantry. In athletics, Devon completed three years in football helping lead the Eagles in successful football campaigns, as well as three years on the track team. He was recognized for his hard work with a second team All-Conference selection, and as recipient of the Eagle Award in football.

Although he is unsure of his future plans, whatever endeavors he attempts, Devon will accept the challenge wholeheartedly.

February Rotary Club Student of the Month

The February Rotary Club Student of the Month is Chelsye Bartsch. Daughter of Davie and Andrea Bartsch, Chelsye is a motivated student-athlete who maintains a 3.278 GPA. Science and history are her favorite classes, and she also enjoys participating in many extracurricular activities.



Chelsye is a member of the band as well as varsity basketball, volleyball and softball teams. In 2011 she was selected as captain of the softball team.

Her interest in photography led her to join the high school yearbook staff, where she serves as photography and layout editor. Camera in-hand at many school events, Chelsye captures the action.

As frequent recipient of the "Good Citizen Award," Chelsye demonstrates kindness and helpfulness. She has also earned a place on the academic honor roll and honorable mention, along with the Ski Valley Conference's most improved athlete recognition. Next fall, Chelsye plans to attend Saginaw Valley State University.

Poets Among Us

Fifth grades students exercised their writing skills during a poetry workshop with Terry Wooten. Below are just a couple of examples of their creativity:

Lizard Surprise by Jaelyn Harhold

Poor lizard,
crushed like a pancake.
Trying to scamper
away from the rock.

Freed his tail.
He dashed off fast
as a blink
to our pile of stones.
Minutes later of working.
In the garden,
another lizard
emerged from the rocks.

Running,
deeper
Into the wilderness.
He vanished,
like a ghost.

Hunting by Andrew Dennis

Looking out
Hunting shack window
In our own direction
Grandpa spotted it first

A monstrous buck
Gun at the ready
Preparing to shoot

Slowly, like a snail
Moving out of sight
Urged Grandpa to fire

About to shoot
No clear shot
Only see its backside

Right before we shoot
It disappeared
Behind the trees like a robin

My first time hunting trip
What a failure it was

My heart was grieving
At the loss of the buck
That was the last time for hunting



Attention Incoming Kindergarteners

It's time to enroll for kindergarten! Bellaire Public Schools is ready for the "Class of 2025!" We offer a successful all day/every day kindergarten program for children age five years on or before December 1, 2012.

To learn more about BPS kindergarten, attend a parent information meeting on Wednesday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the John R. Rodger Elementary media center. The agenda includes a program overview, building tours, kindergarten screening information, screening appointment scheduling, and a question and answer session.

Kindergarten round-up will take place April 20. Please schedule an appointment for your student at the parent information meeting, or call 533-8916.

Complete and return the required enrollment form below to John R. Rodger Elementary School as soon as possible, or register online at bellairepublicschools.com. If you have any questions, call Mrs. Castle at 533-8916.

Library Card Challenge

Mrs. Poel challenges students to get to know the Bellaire Public Library during reading month. The library houses more than 20,000 volumes! With that many books, magazines and other media, grown-ups and students alike are sure to find many wonderful materials to catch the reading bug.

Here's the goal: Every elementary student to have a library card by the end of March. Visit Bellaire Public Library at 111 South Bridge Street for more information on how to get yours!

March is Reading Month: Catch the Reading Bug!

John R. Rodger Elementary School is celebrating Reading Month with the "Catch the Reading Bug" theme. In partnership with ReadAloud.org, teachers and staff are spreading the healthy bug:



**Read Aloud 15 Minutes.
Every Child. Every Parent. Every Day.**

Below are additional reading tips that can help families boost reading time and quality:

- Choose a quiet place, free from distractions, for your child to do his nightly reading assignments.
- As your child reads, point out spelling and sound patterns such as cat, pat, hat.
- When your child reads aloud to you and makes a mistake, point out the words she has missed and help her to read the word correctly.
- After your child has stopped to correct a word he has read, have him go back and reread the entire sentence from the beginning to make sure he understands what the sentence is saying.
- Ask your child to tell you in her own words what happened in a story.
- To check your child's understanding of what he is reading, occasionally pause and ask your child questions about the characters and events in the story.
- Ask your child why she thinks a character acted in a certain way and ask your child to support her answer with information from the story.
- Before getting to the end of a story, ask your child what he thinks will happen next and why.

Bellaire Public Schools Kindergarten Enrollment Form

Please complete and return this form to John R. Rodger Elementary School as soon as possible to process your student's kindergarten enrollment.

Student Name _____

Student Date of Birth _____

Parent's Name _____

Street Address _____

City/ZIP _____

Phone _____

Return this form to Barb Castle, Bellaire Public Schools, 204 W. Forest Home Ave., Bellaire, MI 49615

March/April 2012

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			March 1	2 G V/JV BB District Finals @ Boyne Falls	3
5 B V/JV BB Districts @ Boyne Falls	6	7 B V/JV BB Districts @ Boyne Falls	8	9 B V/JV BB District Finals @ Boyne Falls	10
12 Board of Education Meeting B V/JV BB Regionals @ Bellaire	13	14 B V/JV BB Regionals @ Bellaire	15	16	17
19	20	21	22 End of Third Marking Period	23 No School Spring Recess	24
26	27	28	29	30	31
No School - Spring Recess					
April 2 School Resumes	3	4	5	6 No School Good Friday	7
9 Board of Education Meeting	10	11	12	13	14
16	17	18 Kindergarten Parent Meeting, Elementary Media Center	19	20 Kindergarten Round-Up, By Appointment	21
23	24	25	26	27	28
30					

Dates & Times Subject to Change

Meal Prices

Breakfast (all grades) – \$1.25
 Elementary Lunch – \$2.05
 Secondary Lunch – \$2.30
 Adult – \$3.25

No person because of race, color, national origin, sex, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in our United States Department of Agriculture donated food and nutrition programs. Any persons who believes he/she has been discriminated against should write immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.



Free/Reduced School Meals

Free and reduced-cost school breakfast and lunch is available to families meeting income eligibility requirements. If your family status changes at any time throughout the school year, you are eligible to apply. If you qualify, your children can receive food services at reduced or no cost. Complete an application online by visiting www.lunchapp.com, or find an application at the school office.

Newsletter Online

This newsletter is emailed to all families with students in the school system who have an email address on file. Newsletters are also available at bellairepublicschools.com. A limited number of hard copies are offered at pick-up sites in the community. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please send your email address to bps@bellaire.k12.mi.us or call the school office at 533-8141.

Visit www.Michigan.gov/MDE



The Michigan Department of Education website contains a wealth of information for parents and students age preschool through high school. Grade level expectations, activities for students, college scholarship information and much more is available.

Bellaire Public Schools

