

Bellaire Public Schools



Home of the Eagles

November • December 2014

www.bellairepublicschools.com

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Gimme a "B"

Tom Golden and high school yearbook staff member, Julia Wendling coordinated this memorable school image. Pre-school through fifth grade students and staff got in the school spirit to pose for the camera.

Salute to Veterans



BPS students are pleased to honor those who have served in the U.S. military during a Veteran's Day assembly on November 11 in the High School Gym at 9:00 a.m. The community is invited to this special event as we thank our veterans for their service. We hope all veterans in the area will attend.

Picture Retakes

Wednesday,
November 5



Holiday Programs

Mark your calendars for
upcoming holiday events! More
information to come.

High School

Band/Choir Concert
December 9, 7:00 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

Middle School

Band Concert
December 11, 7:00 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

Elementary

Holiday Program
December 16, 7:00 p.m.
High School Gym



A Great Year So Far

- Jim Emery, Superintendent

It is hard to believe that we've already completed one-quarter of the school year. The cool, wet weather capped our Homecoming Week but didn't dampen the students' enthusiasm. Thank you to the parents who permitted float construction on their properties, to faculty advisors who monitored the events, and to the students for their cooperation and participation.

A penny war headed by the high school Student Council lead up to Spirit Week. Teams were challenged to raise the most money over a week-long period with proceeds going to the American Cancer Society. Large water bottles held the coins contributed by students/staff. The teams were seniors and sixth graders; juniors and seventh graders; sophomores and eighth graders; and freshmen and staff. More than \$200 was raised for a great cause!

School Election Nov. 4

On November 4, residents in Bellaire Public Schools district will be asked to renew a two-year, 18-mill non-homestead tax levy that will allow the district to collect approximately \$3.4 million – which is 86 percent of our operating budget. Non-homestead properties refer to industrial, commercial and some agricultural property, which includes “second homes.” This renewal will not increase taxes at all for non-homestead property owners.

As an out-of-formula school district, BPS does not receive per-pupil funding from the State of Michigan based upon the number of students that are enrolled in the district. Instead, the BPS budget depends almost entirely on the local tax base collected on non-homestead property.

Four School Board member seats will also be on the Nov. 4 ballot. Mike Robinson, Walt Mann and Peter Wendling are incumbents, while Amy George will be a newcomer. Long-time Board member Scott Steiner has decided to not run for reelection.

BPS is a Walking Zone!

Bellaire Public School's walking track that circles the upper balcony of the high school gym is open to the public several hours each day when school is in session. Thirteen and one-half (13 ½) laps equals one mile. The school's website has a calendar available with the times that the track is open. Visit www.bellairepublicschools.com. Generally, the track is open 7:00 -10:00 a.m. It is also open 3:00-8:00 p.m., except on evenings of school athletic events. Please sign in at the office before walking.



Grass River Trip

Bellaire fourth graders enjoyed a trip to Grass River Natural Area, compliments of a grant from Three Lakes Association. They explored the beautiful property which encompasses lakes, a river, streams and creeks — a haven for plant and animal life. Students got a little dirty to get a closer look at what resides in the muck from the stream bottom, and hunting for decomposers in a compost pile.



Inclement Weather Alerts

In case school must be delayed or cancelled due to inclement weather, BPS families will once again receive a phone call notification. This year, an email will also be sent announcing the cancellation or delay. Television stations including TV 7 & 4, TV 9 & 10, and Fox 3 will continue to broadcast closures.

Student Absence Alerts

New this year, BPS families will receive a phone call if a student is absent without being excused by a parent or guardian by 10:30 am on the day of the absence. You may excuse a student's absence any time day or night by calling 231-8015 ext. 324 or 325.

Flu Shot Clinic

Flu vaccinations will be available Tues., Nov. 11 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the upper area of the MS/HS media center. Adults and children (with parent or guardian) are welcome. Appointments may be made by calling 1-800-432-4121 or walk-ins are accepted. Each shot is \$30 or insurance is accepted. The fee may be waived for those without insurance or financial limitation.

Winter Gear Alert

There are many winter hats, jackets, boots and snow pants that look alike, so please label all students' winter gear. If you are in need of winter gear for your child please contact Mrs. Poel at 533-8916. Roll-up sleds are the only type of sled permitted at school. Please label sleds as well.



Writers Beware

Bellaire alumnus and published author Gary Griffith visited Bellaire High School freshman and sophomore classes to share with them the do's and don'ts of successful short story writing. They discussed character, plot, and stocked up their writers' toolboxes. Mr. Griffith lives by "Writers Beware" tips, and reminded students to do the same:



- Avoid cliché conflicts and topics
- Take others' opinions with "a grain of salt"
- Let the characters, not the plot, control the story

Mr. Griffith's expertise shines in his latest publication, *A House of Stone is Forever*, featuring thirteen short stories and two novellas.

Read Early and Often!

Principal Kristi Poel treats an elementary classroom to story time with the 2014 featured



title for "**Michigan Reads!**" *Acoustic Rooster and his Barnyard Band* by author Kwame Alexander and illustrator Tim Bowers is about jazz music, teamwork, sportsmanship, and best efforts.

Supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Library of Michigan Foundation, Michigan Reads stresses literacy skills for young children and families. For the eighth year in a row, Target Corporation has donated the chosen Michigan Reads book to every school library in Michigan.



Bug Hunt

First grade students went on an insect-seeking adventure as part of their science class. Thanks to Three Lakes Association for the grant that funded the nets, jars, and terrariums used during the lesson.



Fire Safety Week

John R. Rodger Elementary students learned all about fire safety and prevention during a visit with the local fire department staff. The annual event aims to teach youngsters tips to help them avoid fire dangers, and show them the tools fire fighters use to battle smoke and flames.



Free/Reduced Cost Meals

A free and reduced cost school breakfast and lunch program is available to families meeting income eligibility requirements. If you qualify, your children can receive food services at reduced or no cost. Families may complete an application online by visiting lunchapp.com. You may also obtain applications in the school office.

School Meal Accounts

You can access your child's food service account balance and/or add money to the account electronically at sendmoneytoschool.com. If you already have an account it will be the same this year. To set up a new account, please follow the instructions online.

Bellaire Public Schools Common Calendar 2014 - 2015



Global Art

Bellaire High School art students created cultural silhouette designs which are now on display. The artists researched a world culture, selected a pattern to represent the culture, and placed a silhouetted object or animal atop the pattern to create stunning graphic displays. Pictured from top to bottom is work by Haley Myas, Brandy O'Neal and Sara Perez-Gonzalez.

Background Checks



For the safety of students, all school chaperones and volunteers are required to have background checks. You can pick up a form in either building office. Thank you for cooperating with this important guideline.

Preschool Options



Bellaire Public Schools is pleased to offer three preschool options at John R. Rodger Elementary School: Great Start Readiness Program (4 year-olds) is free for qualifying families, Headstart (3 and 4 year-olds) is a fee-based program for qualifying families, and Preschool (3-5 year-olds) is a fee-based option for all families. Contact Tonya Dupuie at 533-8916 x285 for more information.

- Nov 3 No School for Students - Regional Staff Development Day
- 17 Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:45 p.m.
- 20 Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:30 p.m.
- 26-28 No School - Thanksgiving Recess
- Dec 1 School Resumes
- 22-31 No School - Christmas Recess
- Jan 1-2 No School - Christmas Recess
- 5 School Resumes
- 23 Half Day for Students
End of First Semester
- Feb 16 No School - Mid-Winter Recess
- Mar 23 Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:45 p.m.
- 24 Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:30 p.m.
- 26 End of Third Marking Period
- 27 No School
- 30-31 No School - Spring Recess
- Apr 1-6 No School - Spring Recess
- 7 School Resumes
- May 25 No School - Memorial Day
- June 3 Half Day for Students - Exams
- 4 Half Day for Students - Last Day
- 5 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. - 12:08 p.m.
MS/HS 8:00 a.m. - 11:55 a.m.

Six (6) snow days are allowed by the Michigan Department of Education; any additional snow days after those six will need to be made up as additional days to this calendar.

Before/After School & Snow Day Care

Kid's Club child care is available before and after school at 7:00 - 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. It is also available all day on snow days at John R. Rodger Elementary School. For registration information, contact Tonya Dupuie at 533-8916 x285.

Rotary Student of the Month

Rick Foster has been selected as October's Rotary Student of the Month. Son of Mike and Lori Foster, Rick has impressive achievements in the classroom, in athletics, and in the community.



Rick's 3.788 grade point average ranks him fourth in his class. Although he excels in all of his classes, his favorite subjects are math and history. He earned the Social Studies department award in 2012, and has used his excellent math skills to earn a spot in the Manufacturing Technology Academy (MTA) program through Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District. During his time at MTA, Rick has worked on a team to design and build robots for competition. At the MTA Expo For Innovation, Rick formulated the winning idea during the Junior Achievement summit for young entrepreneurs. His other academic honors include Bellaire Honor Roll each semester, and National Honor Society. Rick's teachers acknowledge his hard work, which will enable him to graduate at the end of the semester in January.

A four-year varsity football player, Rick has been instrumental in making the playoffs each of those four years, with a chance at state championship in 2012. He is also a member of the varsity baseball team, winning the district title two of the last three years. Rick is also known for his remarkable strength. Though he is not the biggest kid physically, he is one of the strongest kids pound for pound at Bellaire. He often competes in power lifting contests, and placed third in the state championships his sophomore year.

Amidst his school commitments, Rick still finds time for community service. He is a participant in National Honor Society's annual blood drives as a worker and a donor. He has also volunteered for Father Fred Foundation, and at the Father Fred Can-struction where he was part of the team that won first place.

Rick is an outstanding young person, well-liked and respected by peers and adults. His future plans are not yet finalized yet, but he is considering attending Ferris State University to pursue a degree in automotive engineering.

Email Newsletter Delivery

The Bellaire Public Schools newsletter is distributed electronically every two months. Printed copies are available at both school offices, the public library, the Senior Center, and at the Bellaire Chamber of Commerce. If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, contact Bellaire Public Schools at 533-8141 and your email address will be added to the database.

Career-Tech Student Spotlight

Bellaire senior Kayla Camp recently received a Student Spotlight award from TBAISD Career-Tech Center for her outstanding work with the Teacher Academy program. Kayla assists students in Mrs. Smolinski's sixth grade classroom, excelling as she works with them in groups and one-on-one.



Board of Education Meeting Dates for 2014-2015

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., November 24, 2014Regular Business Meeting
Mon., December 22, 2014Regular Business Meeting
Mon., January 26, 2015Regular Business Meeting
Mon., February 23, 2015Regular Business Meeting
Mon., March 23, 2015Regular Business Meeting
Mon., April 27, 2015Regular Business Meeting
Mon., May 18, 2015Regular Business Meeting
Mon., June 22, 2015Regular Business Meeting
Mon., July 27, 2015Regular Business Meeting*

*This meeting will include Board of Education organizational agenda items for the 2015-2016 school year.



Elementary students took advantage of free time and great fall weather on the playground.

Bellaire Public Schools Newsletter, Vol. 35, No.2, November/December 2014. This newsletter is produced five times a school year for parents, residents and taxpayers in the Bellaire Public School District. The newsletter is published by the Bellaire Board of Education:

Tony Martinek	Robert Silk	Scott Steiner
Patricia Savant	Mike Robinson	Walt Mann
		Peter Wendling

Newsletter editing and layout is provided by the Information Services Department, Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District. Comments and inquiries about the newsletter should be directed to James Emery, Superintendent, Bellaire Public Schools, 533-8141.

The following is a directory of school administrators:

James Emery, Superintendent/High School Principal, 533-8141
Kristi Poel, Elementary/Middle School Principal, 533-8916
Eric Matusik, Food Services, 533-8141

November/December 2014

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
November 3 No School Regional Staff Development Day	4 MS G BB @ Central Lake	5	6 MS G BB @ Pellston	7	8
10 MS G BB @ Mancelona	11 Veterans Day Assembly Flu Shot Clinic MS B BB v Mancelona	12 MS G BB @ Forest Area	13 MS B BB v Forest Area	14	15
17 Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:45p	18 MS G BB v Jo'Burg MS B BB @ Jo'Burg	19 MS G BB v Central Lake	20 Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:30p MS B BB @ Central Lake	21	22
24 Board of Education Meeting	25 MS G BB v Pellston MS B BB v Pellston	26 27 28 No School Thanksgiving Recess			29
December 1 School Resumes MS B BB @ Mancelona	2 MS G BB v Mancelona	3 V G BB v Suttons Bay	4 MS B BB v Jo'Burg	5 V G BB @ E Jordan	6
8 MS B BB v Central Lake	9 HS Band/Choir Winter Concert	10 MS B BB @ Forest Area V G BB @ Pellston	11 MS Band Winter Concert	12 V G BB v Onaway	13
15 MS B BB @ Pellston	16 V B BB @ Pellston Elementary Holiday Program	17 V G BB v Mancelona	18 V B BB v Onaway	19 V G BB @ Forest Area V B BB v E Jordan	20
22 23 24 25 26 27 No School Christmas Recess					
Board of Education Meeting					
29	30	31	January 1	2	3
No School Christmas Recess					
5 School Resumes	6 V B BB v Mancelona	7 V G BB v Inland Lakes	8 V B BB @ Forest Area	9 V G BB @ Gaylord SM	10

Dates & Times Subject to Change

Regular School Day Schedule:
Elem 8:05 - 3:02
MS/HS 8:00 - 2:50

½ Day School Schedule:
Elem 8:05 - 12:08
MS/HS 8:00 - 11:55

Free Breakfast

All students in Grades K-5 will have the opportunity to eat breakfast for free each weekday morning. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Kick-start your day in a healthy way!

Meal Prices

Breakfast

Grades K-5	Free
All other grades	\$1.35
Elementary Lunch	\$2.25
Secondary Lunch	\$2.45
Adult	\$3.35

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.

School Meal Program

Free and reduced cost school breakfast and lunch program 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. An application is available online at www.lunchapp.com. You may also find applications in the school office.

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