

# Bellaire Public Schools



Home of the Eagles

March • April 2016

[www.bellairepublicschools.com](http://www.bellairepublicschools.com)

Volume 36, No. 4

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Visit the BPS  
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[www.bellairepublicschools.com](http://www.bellairepublicschools.com)

## Stellar Spellers

Bellaire students have been showcasing their knowledge in recent spelling bees. Following the school spelling bee, seven students (pictured at right) moved on to the Antrim County event, where Riley Kate Robinson took third place and Isaac Golden earned a spot as alternate as they compete in the Regional Spelling Bee at Traverse City's State Theater on Sunday, March 20.



Back row, left to right: Cali Willson, Cole Robinson, Riley Kate Robinson, Isaac Golden, Erin Evans  
Front row, left to right: Liam Boyd, Cameron Golden



## Young Engineers

Bellaire's Robotics Club finished its fifth week on a high note by completing challenges with their robots. Students designed and built robotic arms using cardboard, syringes, plastic tubing, and tape. Students tested their creations on tasks such as stacking pop cans, and placing ping pong balls in cups. The next project will test club members' abilities to construct a computerized lego robot and program it to navigate an obstacle course.

## Football All Star

Bellaire senior football player Hayden Niepoth was selected by the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association (MHSFCA) to participate in the 34th annual East-West All Star Game on June 25 at Saginaw Valley State University. Hayden will play for the West team. The game is sanctioned by MHSAA and coordinated by MHSFCA. Many of the greatest players in Michigan football history have taken part in this event and it is a great honor for Hayden to be chosen to represent Bellaire football and his teammates.



## FROM THE DESK OF ..... Superintendent Jim Emery

### Snow Days

I'm often asked how snow days are determined within our school district. With varied terrain, one side of the district may receive 8 inches of new snow, while the other side only 3 inches. Wind and lake-effect snow are also important factors in snow day decisions.

On a morning when road conditions could be questionable, I follow this "weather check" driving routine: At 4:00 a.m. (or earlier if under a weather advisory or warning), I head west to East Torch Lake Drive, turn south, and head back to Clam Lake Road. Returning to Bellaire Highway, I turn north on Eckhardt Road and go to Honey Hollow before checking out Austin Road down to M-88. Next, it's back into town and up Derenzy to Eddy School, then to Montgomery. I loop south on Oslund and Graham until I reach Schuss Mountain Road. From there, I travel back through the Shanty Creek region and return to my house around 4:45. Before making a decision, I also check in with other superintendents and check reliable weather and road reports.

We attempt to make our decision to close by 5:30 a.m. because we have several Bellaire students who attend TBAISD special education programs in Traverse City and rely on TBAISD buses which begin picking up students before 6:00 a.m. If Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS) are closed, the TBAISD programs are also closed. If TCAPS makes the decision to close the night before or prior to 5:00 a.m., Bellaire may wait to close until after the usual 5:30 a.m. time. The most common reason for a closure after 5:30 a.m. is a late-arriving storm in our area.

### Why not a two-hour delay?

On regular school days, BPS buses begin morning routes by 6:40 a.m. The Antrim County Road Commission begins plowing roads around 7:00 a.m. A two-hour delay would require that all roads would be passable by 8:40 a.m. -- and that isn't always feasible. A two-hour delay also causes problems with the TBAISD special education buses and programs located at TCAPS.

### Neighboring Schools' Decisions

It may seem that neighboring schools make snow day decisions together because superintendents *do* consult with one another when choosing to close for weather. The schools closest to Bellaire are especially important -- Central Lake, Mancelona, and Elk Rapids. Superintendents agree that student safety is top priority when determining a snow day. Our conversations focus on conditions in the areas that we share.



*Fifth graders interviewed kindergarteners about their favorite snow day activities*

## MSTEP Test Results

This spring, BPS students take the MSTEP assessment for the second year. Last April this state assessment was administered for the first time, replacing the 30-year-old MEAP. An advantage of the online MSTEP is that it was designed to yield quick results. However, last year's MSTEP preliminary results were sent to schools and parents from the State of Michigan in December and January - eight months later.

Unfortunately the 2015 scores did not include a *detailed analysis of how students performed on each question*. This information is critical for our curriculum adjustments and possibly shifting instructional materials to different grade levels if appropriate. Without this analysis, schools are uninformed on needed adjustments. We hope for faster turnaround of 2016 results.



## Bellaire Band Success

High school band members traveled to Kingsley in early February to participate in the District Solo & Ensemble Festival. Students who earned a first division rating advance to the State Solo & Ensemble Festival on March 19 at Manistee High School. Congratulations to the following band members: Isaac Bigsby oboe solo (1st) and woodwind quintet (1st); Abby Boyd tenor sax solo (1st); Kennan Dawson woodwind quintet (1st); Erin Emery French horn solo (1st) and duet (1st); CJ Miller woodwind quintet (1st); Keara Lietow woodwind quintet (1st); Katie Rathke flute solo (1st); Maggie Rathke alto sax solo (1st) and woodwind quintet (1st).

In another success, Bellaire Middle School and High School bands earned first division ratings at the recent District Band Festival in Petoskey on February 26. Congratulations to these talented musicians.

## Preschool Options at BPS

There are *three* on-site preschool programs for young children: Headstart is available for youngsters ages three to five years, and is a fee-based program for qualifying families. Traditional preschool is a fee-based program for three to five-year-olds. Great Start Readiness Program for four year-olds is *free* for qualifying families. Contact Tonya Dupuie at 533-8916 x285 for information.

## Before/After School Care

Kalkaska Memorial Healthcare provides Kid's Club before/after school care *and snow day care* for students ages 4 - 12 at John R. Rodger Elementary. Hours are 7:00 to 8:00 a.m., and 3:02 to 6:00 p.m. Cost is \$2 per hour with flexible scheduling. Contact Tonya Dupuie at TDupuie1@mhc.net or call 533-8916 x285.



## Summer Fun Kids Club

Summer Kids Club is available for child care at John R. Rodger Elementary School. Hours are 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Contact Tonya Dupuie at 533-8916 x285 to register.



## Dental Health

February was dental health month and hygienist Allyson Hanson from Dr. Rathke's office visited school to teach students how to brush properly and the importance of dental care. The kids also appreciated kits with toothbrushes, floss and toothpaste from Dr. Rathke.

## Support PTO Events!

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) creates fun events that help support BPS. Please mark your calendars to participate. And as always, remember to save your labels year round for school fundraising! (Box Tops, Labels for Education, Spartan, Coke Rewards)

**Monthly PTO Meetings**  
Wednesday, March 16  
Wednesday, April 20  
Wednesday, May 18

**Daddy-Daughter Dance**  
Saturday, March 12

John R. Rodger Elementary School will celebrate March is Reading Month with a Reading Rodeo! Students are asked to round up a good book each night. Families are encouraged to participate with fun activities at home that relate to



the rodeo theme. Create cowboy games, and prepare western recipes like cow chow, haystacks or homemade butter. It's also the perfect time to visit the library to check out books and enjoy reading as a family.

A reading month calendar will be sent home so students can participate in a special activity every day. Literacy is one of the greatest gifts we can give our children. Let's lasso some reading excitement with the help of the tips below:

- Choose a quiet, distraction-free place for reading.
- Point out spelling/sound patterns like cat, pat, hat.
- When your child misses a word, identify it and help her read the word correctly.
- After stopping to correct a word, reread the entire sentence to ensure comprehension.
- Retell the story in your own words.
- Ask questions about the characters and events.
- Guess why a character acted in a certain way.
- Before the end of a story, ask what might happen next and why.

## Library Card Challenge

Mrs. Poel challenges every parent to visit Bellaire Public Library with their child and register for a library card during reading month. Parents must accompany students to receive a library card. It's located at 111 South Bridge Street and it houses more than 20,000 volumes! All students will take a field trip to check it out at the end of March.

### Library Card Challenge Goal:

*Every* elementary student will have a library card by the end of March.



*Bryce Pyne and Emma Ramsey participate with Deputy Morris during DARE class*



## It's Kindergarten Sign-Up Time!

Students must be five years old on or before September 1, 2016 to enroll for the 2016-17 school year.

### Parent Information Meeting

A kindergarten parent information meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the John R. Rodger Elementary media center. Please plan to attend and bring your child's birth certificate and shots record. The meeting will include a program overview, building tour, student round-up information, and a question/answer session.

### Kindergarten Round-Up

Kindergarten round-up is Tuesday, April 19. Call Mrs. LeCureux at 533-8916 with questions or to schedule a round-up appointment if you are unable to attend the parent information meeting.

Complete and return the required enrollment form below to John R. Rodger Elementary School or register online at [bellairepublicschools.com](http://bellairepublicschools.com).

### 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 (must be 5 on/before 9/1/16)

Parent's Name

Street Address

City, State ZIP

Phone

#### Return this form to:

Bellaire Public Schools  
Mrs. LeCureux  
204 W. Forest Home Ave.  
Bellaire, MI 49615

## Bellaire Public Schools Common Calendar 2015 - 2016

•	Mar	15	Parent Teacher Conferences	•
•			4:30-7:45 p.m.	•
•		17	Parent Teacher Conferences	•
•			4:30-7:30 p.m.	•
•		24	End of Third Marking Period	•
•		25-31	No School - Spring Recess	•
•	Apr	1	No School - Spring Recess	•
•		4	No School for Students or Staff	•
•		5	School Resumes	•
•	May	30	No School - Memorial Day	•
•	June	6	Half Day for Students - Exams	•
•		7	Half Day for Students - Last Day	•
•		10	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. - 11:40 a.m.  
MS/HS 8:00 a.m. - 11:55 a.m.

Additional days may need to be added to the calendar if excessive snow days are used.

### Board of Education Meetings 2015-2016

#### Meeting Location:

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

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

Mon., Mar. 21, 2016	Mon., June 20, 2016
Mon., April 25, 2016	Mon., July 25, 2016
Mon., May 23, 2016	

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Tony Martinek	Robert Silk	Walt Mann
Patricia Savant	Mike Robinson	Peter Wendling
		Aimee George

Newsletter editing and layout is provided by the Communications Department, Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District. Comments and inquiries about the newsletter should be directed to James Emery, Superintendent, Bellaire Public Schools, 533-8015.

The following is a directory of school administrators:  
James Emery, Superintendent/High School Principal, 533-8015  
Kristi Poel, Elementary/Middle School Principal, 533-8916  
Jessica Meyers, Food Services, 533-8015 ext. 244

## January Rotary Student of the Month

Senior Nicolas (Nic) Underwood was selected as the January Rotary Club Student of the Month. Son of Tim and Jeanne Ann Underwood of Bellaire, Nic maintains a 3.75 grade point average, along with membership in the National



Honor Society for two years, and a second place award in the Voices of Democracy essay contest. He has appeared on the honor roll throughout his high school career, often with all A's. Nic's favorite subjects are math and art.

Nic is a four-year, three-sport athlete in baseball, soccer, and basketball. In baseball, he was twice named to the all-district and all-conference teams, and has been an Antrim Review All Star three times. Soccer honors include three years as all-conference and two years as all-district, and a two-time Antrim Review All-Star. Nic also received all-conference honors in basketball.

Nic has been a member of the Antrim County Youth Coalition for two years and is a member of the Bellaire Community United Methodist Church. He has volunteered as a referee for AYSO soccer and worked at the Special Games helping disabled youths hone their baseball skills. His leadership and accomplishments make him an excellent role model for younger students.

## February Rotary Student of the Month

Brandy O'Neal was selected as the February Bellaire Rotary Club Student of the Month. Daughter of Jodi and James O'Neal, she is an outstanding student exhibiting excellence in academics and athletics.



Brandy is a positive role model in the classroom, with a willingness to help others and readiness to learn. With a grade point average of 3.75, her favorite classes include finance, pre-calculus and biology. She excels in art as well, where she has been honored with the art department award. Teachers and peers appreciate Brandy's kind-hearted personality and great attitude.

A natural in sports, Brandy's high school athletic career has included volleyball, softball and basketball. She earned a nomination for the all-conference basketball team. She also makes an impact by participating in the National Honor Society and volunteering as a peer tutor. She assists with middle school volleyball and organizing school blood drives. Through NHS, Brandy helps with Halloween at Meadowbrook and Bellaire's "Light Up the Night" celebration. She plans to begin a math or education degree at Northwestern Michigan College next fall.



## Student Spotlight Award

Lindsay Lampman was recently honored for a Student Spotlight Award. Lindsay is a Bellaire High School senior and attends TBAISD Career-Tech Center in the Teacher Academy program. She is recognized

for her above-and-beyond commitment to John R. Rodger Elementary second graders. A valuable asset to the elementary class, Lindsay spent a considerable amount of her own time assisting with the elementary Christmas program and elementary Christmas parties.

## Email Newsletter Delivery

The Bellaire Public Schools newsletter is distributed electronically and printed copies are available at school offices, public library, Senior Center, and Bellaire Chamber of Commerce. If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, contact Bellaire Public Schools at 533-8015.



*Randolph*



*Tremonti*

## Career-Tech Center Students of the Quarter

Bellaire High School and TBAISD Career-Tech Center (CTC) juniors Colleen Randolph and Alexa Grace Tremonti have been recognized as CTC Students of the Quarter for their academic success, leadership, and work ethic. Colleen is in the CTC Film and New Media program, and Alexa is in the Allied Health program.

# March - April 2016

# Bellaire Public Schools

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>MARCH</b> 1 V/JV B BB v Ellsworth	2 G BB Districts @ Ellsworth	3 V/JV B BB @ Onaway	4 G BB District Finals @ Ellsworth	5
7 B BB Districts @ Bellaire	8	9 B BB Districts @ Bellaire	10	11 B BB Districts @ Bellaire	12 Daddy Daughter Dance
14	15 Parent Teacher Conferences	16 PTO Meeting	17 Parent Teacher Conferences	18	19
21 Board of Education Meeting	22	23	24 End of 3rd Marking Period	25 <b>No School</b> Spring Recess	26
28	29	30	31	<b>APRIL</b> 1	2
<b>No School</b> Spring Recess					
4 <b>No School</b> Spring Recess	5 School Resumes	6	7	8	9
11 V BB/SB @ Alanson V Track @ Inland Lks	12 MS Track @ Central Lk	13 V Track @ Central Lk	14 V BB/SB v Pellston MS Track v Jo'Burg, Onaway, Inland Lks, Pellston	15	16 V Track v Suttons Bay
18 Kindergarten Parent Info Meeting V BB/SB @ Jo'Burg	19 Kindergarten Round-Up MS Track v Forest Area, Central Lk, Gaylord SM	20 V BB/SB @ Ellsworth PTO Meeting	21 MS Track @ Inland Lks	22 V BB/SB @ Buckley V Track @ Mancelona	23
25 Board of Education Meeting	26 V BB/SB @ TC Christian MS Track @ Mancelona	27	28 V BB/SB v Forest Area V Track @ Inland Lks	29 V BB/SB v Frankfort	30 MS Track @ Central Lk
<b>MAY</b> 2 V BB/SB @ Inland Lks V Track @ Jo'Burg	3 MS Track @ Jo'Burg	4	5 V Track v Kalkaska	6 MS Track @ Mancelona	7
9 V BB/SB v Mancelona V Track @ Central Lk	10	11	12 V BB/SB v Gaylord SM	13 V Track v Central Lk	14 V SB @ Central Lk

Dates and times subject to change

## Free Breakfast

Students in grades K-5 may have free school breakfast. Start the day in a healthy way!

## Meal Prices

### Breakfast

Grades K-5	Free
All other grades	\$1.35
Reduced	\$0.30

### Lunch

Elementary	\$2.30
MS/HS	\$2.50
Reduced	\$0.40
Adult (tax incl.)	\$3.55

### Milk

Elementary	\$0.35
MS/HS	\$0.50

## Meal Accounts

Student meal accounts are accessible at [sendmoneytoschool.com](http://sendmoneytoschool.com). Balances can be checked and money added electronically. To set up a new account, follow the instructions online.

## Meal Program

Free and reduced cost school breakfast and lunch program is available to families meeting income eligibility requirements. **Families must apply for free/reduced school meals every year.** 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](http://www.lunchapp.com). You may also find applications in the school office.

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.