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## Bellaire Robotics Program On The Grow

According to Bellaire Robotics coordinator Chris Vandergriff, the program is growing rapidly with more than 50 second through eighth grade students participating. The group hosted its first VEX IQ event on October 28. There were 12 teams involved, with each team consisting of two to five members. Robotics is a great educational activity that combines academics and creativity.



## Literacy Jack-o-Lanterns

Elementary students got into the Halloween spirit with a fun reading activity. They selected characters from their favorite stories and decorated pumpkins to represent them.

## Bustling with Good News

- Jim Emery, Superintendent

We had a great start to the new school year and there are no signs of letting up anytime soon. Open House was very well attended and the athletic teams have enjoyed a tremendous amount of success so far. The football team made the playoffs, volleyball has been ranked for the first time ever, and the girls' cross country team received recognition as the top academic team at the Class D meet held in Shepherd.

Student Council did an excellent job organizing Homecoming 2017 with enthusiastic participation during Spirit Week. The Powderpuff games were exciting to watch, followed by motivational speeches around the bonfire. The week concluded with the homecoming parade where Hunter Putz was crowned homecoming king and Marissa Slabosz was crowned queen. A football victory over Pellston and a high school dance on Saturday night wrapped up one of the best homecoming weeks ever.

Under the guidance of counselor Peggy Stevens, all seniors have applied for at least one college. Representatives from Northwestern Michigan College came to Bellaire and guided students through the process of applying online. It must have been contagious, as several seniors have since applied to other colleges and universities as well. Seniors attended a College Fair at Mancelona and the juniors and seniors attended a Career Fair at Kalkaska. Look for a FAFSA workshop on November 7 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. in the high school computer lab for parents and students looking for help completing the online forms for student financial aid.

Students in grades 2-12 are busy with the BYI-sponsored VEX Robotics program this year. More than 50 students are participating this year with the help of numerous parents and community volunteers. Bellaire even hosted its first-ever VEX Robotics competition the last weekend of October.

Parent teacher conferences are fast approaching. On November 14, the elementary conferences are 4:00-7:15 p.m. High school/middle school conferences are 4:30-7:45 p.m. in an open-forum format. A second day of conferences will be November 21, with elementary at 4:00-7:00 p.m., and HSMS at 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Please remember to check the calendar on the school's website found at [www.bellairepublicschools.com](http://www.bellairepublicschools.com). Web content is updated almost daily and is the only official place to find out news about Bellaire Public Schools.

## Salute to Veterans Nov. 10

BPS students are pleased to honor those who have served in the U.S. military during a Veteran's Day assembly on November 10 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.

## Preschool Choices

Bellaire Public Schools is pleased to continue the partnership with Kalkaska Memorial Healthcare offering three options for parents with preschool children: 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. Call Tonya Dupuie at 533-8916 x285 for more information.

## Before/After School Care

Kalkaska Memorial Healthcare will provide Kid's Club before/after school care for students ages 4 - 12 at John R. Rodger Elementary School. Childcare is available from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m., and from 3:02 to 6:00 p.m. Kids Club also offers services on snow days and school vacation days. Contact Tonya Dupuie at TDupuie1@mhc.net or call 533-8916 x285.

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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. Below are school administrators:  
James Emery, Superintendent/High School Principal, 533-8015  
Kristi Poel, Elementary/Middle School Principal, 533-8916  
Jessica Meyers, Food Services, (231) 587-9764 ext. 214

## Board of Education Meetings 2017-2018

**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., Nov. 27, 2017	Mon., April 23, 2018
Mon., Dec. 18, 2017	Mon., May 21, 2018
Mon., Jan. 22, 2018	Mon., June 18, 2018
Mon., Feb. 26, 2018	Mon., July 23, 2018
Mon., Mar. 19, 2018	



## Hands-On Science Lesson

During a visit to the Boardman River Fish Weir, Reegan checks out a young sea lamprey, an invasive species to the Great Lakes.

## School Cancellation Alerts

If school must be delayed or cancelled due to weather conditions, BPS families will receive a phone call notification. An email will also be sent announcing the cancellation or delay. Television stations TV 7 & 4, TV 9 & 10, and Fox 3 will broadcast closures.

## Student Absences

BPS families will receive a phone call if a student is absent without being excused by a parent or guardian by 10:30 a.m. on the day of the absence. You may excuse a student's absence any time day or night by calling 533-8015 ext. 324 or 325.



## Winter Gear Notice

There are many winter hats, jackets, boots and snow pants that look alike, so please label them with the owner's name. If you are in need of winter gear for your child please contact Mrs. Poel at 533-8916 and she will see that all children have necessary items. Remember, **roll-up** sleds are the only type permitted at school, and should also be labeled with students' names. *Note: All unclaimed lost/found items are donated or disposed of every nine weeks - so please remember to label.*



## Fire Safety and Fun

Ms. Benson's first grade students proudly wear the fire helmets given to them by the Bellaire Fire Department. Students learned all about fire safety and toured a fire truck. Fourth graders enjoyed getting up-close and personal to see how the fire truck operates.



## Parent Teacher Conferences

**Wednesday, November 14**

Elementary Conferences 4:00 - 7:15 p.m.

MS/HS Conferences 4:30 - 7:45 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 21**

Elementary Conferences 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

MS/HS Conferences 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

## Join PTO

The John R. Rodger Elementary Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is planning events and student opportunities for the 2017-2018 school year, and more hands are always needed to help. All parents are welcome to join. **The next meeting is November 7.** To contact the PTO with questions or suggestions, email [bellaireeaglespto@gmail.com](mailto:bellaireeaglespto@gmail.com).



## School Meal Accounts

You can access your child's food service account balance and/or add money to the account electronically at [sendmoneytoschool.com](http://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 Homecoming

Bellaire High School named Marissa Slabosz and Hunter Putz the 2017 homecoming queen and king at the end of a fun-filled Spirit Week of activities, including dress-up days, Powderpuff game and bonfire, parade and the dance.

## Public Act 306 3rd Grade Reading Law

Strong literacy skills are the foundation to a child's success as a student and citizen in our world. With this in mind the Michigan Legislature passed Public Act 306 in 2016 and it will take effect beginning with the 2019-2020 school year (current 1st graders). Starting with the 2017-2018 school year we are required by State law to assess students' reading levels three times per year. The law requires us to notify parents if their child is identified to be at risk of not achieving proficiency on the state assessment. For some students we are required to create an Individual Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP) that requires a Read-At-Home component. You will be notified by the end of November if your child is at risk of not meeting PA306 standards and whether your child will have an IRIP and/or a Read-at-Home plan. The law states that beginning with the 2019-2020 school year students who are not reading at the 3rd grade reading level at the end of 3rd grade as measured by the State assessment will be retained in 3rd grade. This is a big goal and only with your help will it be achieved. We are eager to partner with parents to ensure that all students become strong readers.

## Holiday Programs



Mark your calendars for upcoming holiday events!

### High School

Band/Choir Concert  
December 4, 7:00 p.m.  
Performing Arts Center

### Middle School

Band Concert  
December 12, 7:00 p.m.  
Performing Arts Center

### Elementary

Christmas Program  
December 19, 7:00 p.m.  
High School Gym

## Bellaire Public Schools Common Calendar 2017 - 2018

• Nov	3	Half Day for Students
•		End of First Marking Period
•	6	No School for Students -
•		Regional Staff Development Day
•	14	Parent Teacher Conferences
•		Elem 4:00-7:15 p.m./MS&HS 4:30-7:45 p.m.
•	21	Parent Teacher Conferences
•		Elem 4:00-7:00 p.m./MS&HS 4:30-7:30 p.m.
•	22	Half Day for Students
•	23-24	No School - Thanksgiving Recess
•	27	School Resumes
• Dec	22-31	No School - Christmas Recess
• Jan	1-2	No School - Christmas Recess
•	3	School Resumes
•	18	Half Day for Students (HS Exams)
•	19	Half Day for Students (HS Exams)
•		End of First Semester
• Feb	20	Parent Teacher Conferences
•		Elem 4:00-7:15 p.m./MS&HS 4:30-7:45 p.m.
•	22	Parent Teacher Conferences
•		Elem 4:00-7:00 p.m./MS&HS 4:30-7:30 p.m.
•	23	Half Day for Students
• Mar	23	End of Third Marking Period
•	26-Apr 2	No School - Spring Recess
• Apr	3	School Resumes
•	20	Half Day for Students
• May	28	No School - Memorial Day
• June	1	Graduation 7:00 p.m.
•	6	Half Day for Students (HS Exams)
•	7	Half Day for Students (HS Exams)
•		Last Day of School

### 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.

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.

## Rotary Student of the Month

### Isaac Bigsby

The Bellaire Rotary Club named Isaac Bigsby October Rotary Student of the Month. Son of Cindy and Rick Bigsby of Bellaire, Isaac is a diligent student and charitable citizen. He earned the honor with his academic achievements, contributions to his community, and the leadership he models.



With a grade point average of 4.0 and a consistent record on the honor roll, Isaac is a strong student and dedicated to service. He is a member of the Bellaire National Honor Society (NHS) and Student Council. Serving for the second year on NHS, Isaac spearheads many school activities as vice president. Student Council has benefitted from his leadership, serving as co-president for the past two years and vice president his sophomore year. Isaac is also musically gifted, playing the oboe in the Bellaire Honor Band and Solo and Ensemble, and contributes to the Bellaire Marching Band with the alto saxophone.

Isaac has been a member of the track team since his sophomore year. For the past three years he has been a member of the Green Cord mentoring program and has served the St. Luke's Youth Group in numerous activities. Isaac plans to study pre-med or English after high school graduation. He will be a visionary and leader.



## Service with a Smile

The Bellaire Chapter of the National Honors Society partnered with Beacon Dental Center in Gaylord for a fun day of community service. Senior NHS members volunteered with the office's annual free dental care day that provides dental health care to people in need. Each member served an imperative role to make sure the event went smoothly, such as registering and checking in patients, and aiding hygienists and doctors.



## Notes from the School Counselor

High school seniors spend much of their 12th grade year getting ready for their futures. Here are some of the ways Bellaire High School helps prepare:

- Northwestern Michigan College visited seniors on October 18, when all seniors were able to apply to NMC, send their transcripts using Parchment, and take the ACCUPLACER math test.
- Notes were sent home with every senior on how to request a Federal Student Aid Identification (FSA ID). The process is simple, but does require 2-3 days of processing before students receive IDs.
- After students receive their FSA ID, they may prepare their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application.
- The note sent home with seniors includes instructions on how to complete the FAFSA application.
- **All are welcome to attend a FAFSA workshop on November 7, 5:00-8:00 p.m. in the high school computer lab.**

Students and parents are welcome to contact me with questions about this important process.

~ Peggy Stevens, Bellaire K12 Counselor



## Grant = New Books

Bellaire Middle and High School teacher, Tiffany Sutter was awarded a \$100 grant from the Meemic Foundation to purchase Scholastic books for her classroom. With those funds, she purchased 17 new novels for her classroom library for Silent Sustained Reading projects.

# November - December 2017

## Bellaire Public Schools

**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	\$2.50
MS/HS	\$2.70
Reduced	\$0.40
Adult (tax incl.)	\$3.55
Milk	\$0.50

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.

### 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.

### Newsletter Delivery

The Bellaire Public Schools newsletter is distributed electronically every two months. Printed copies are also available at school offices, public library, Senior Center, and Bellaire Chamber of Commerce. To request the newsletter delivery via email, contact Bellaire Public Schools at 533-8015.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30 VB Districts @ Ellsworth MS G BB v Pellston	31	NOVEMBER 1 VB Districts (home) MS G BB v Mancelona	2 School Picture Retakes VB District Finals (home) MS B BB @ Inland Lks	3 Half Day of School End of First Quarter	4 CC State Finals @ MIS
6 No School Prof. Development MS G BB @ Gaylord SM	7 VB Regionals (home) FAFSA Workshop PTO Meeting	8 MS G BB v Forest Area	9 VB Regional Finals (home)	10 Veteran's Day Assembly	11
13 MS G BB v Central Lk	14 Parent Teacher Conferences Scholastic Book Fair	15 MS G BB @ Onaway	16 MS B BB v Gaylord SM	17	18
20 MS G BB @ JoBurg	21 Parent Teacher Conferences Scholastic Book Fair MS B BB @ Forest Area	22 Half Day of School	23 No School Thanksgiving Recess	24	25
27 School Resumes Board of Education Meeting	28 MS B BB @ Central Lk	29 MS G BB v JoBurg V G BB @ Boyne City	30 MS B BB v Onaway	DECEMBER 1 PTO Parent's Night Out MS B BB v Mancelona V G BB @ Ellsworth	2
4 HS Band/Choir Concert	5 MS B BB v JoBurg V B BB @ Kalkaska	6 V G BB v Central Lk	7 MS G BB @ Mancelona V B BB v Charlevoix	8	9
11 MS B BB @ JoBurg	12 V B BB v Central Lk MS Band/Choir Concert	13 V G BB v Mancelona	14 V B BB @ E. Jordan	15 V G BB @ Kalkaska	16 Breakfast with Santa
18 Board of Education Meeting	19 Elementary Christmas Program	20	21	22 No School Christmas Recess	23
25	26	27	28	29	30
No School Christmas Recess					
JANUARY 1 No School Christmas Recess	2	3 School Resumes V G BB v E. Jordan	4	5 V G BB v JoBurg	6
8	9	10 V G BB @ Onaway	11	12 PTO Mother/Son Bowling V G BB v Pellston	13

Dates and times subject to change