

Stacy Cooper, Principal
March 2012

I'm training for Jump Rope for Heart—
What's it all about?

The Bartlett Beat

Principal's News



QUESTIONS ABOUT MICHIGAN'S NEW "CUT SCORES"

What are the MEAP Tests? The MEAP is a series of tests given in grades 3-9. The MEAP tests are based on Grade Level Content Expectations developed by Michigan educators and approved by the Michigan State Board of Education in 1995. MEAP tests are criterion-referenced and each student's results are reported against a pre-determined performance standard or "cut score." How well a student performs on the MEAP tests, relative to the new cut scores, determines whether he or she is labeled as advanced, proficient, partially proficient, or not proficient. The MEAP test is only one of many measures used in our district throughout the year to insure that students are making academic progress

What does "proficient" mean? Student scores that match the required percent of items correct to reach the meet or exceed established cut scores are labeled proficient.

What does "college and career readiness" mean? The term "college readiness" indicates a student is ready to succeed in first-semester, credit-bearing college courses. The term "career readiness" indicates a student is ready to succeed in introductory technical career training courses.

What are MEAP "cut scores"? Cut scores (or cutoff scores) separate test takers into these categories: advanced, proficient, partially proficient and not proficient. MEAP cut scores are set based on the percent of items correct and standards met. Categories are determined by the Michigan Department of Education and approved by the Michigan State Board of Education.

Why is Michigan changing the MEAP cut scores? Michigan's previous cut scores for these state tests were set at a basic level. Raising the cut scores will give Michigan parents and students a better sense of whether students are adequately prepared for the next step in their education and a future career in a global economy. *Michigan is one of only three states in the nation (along with New York and Tennessee) to move to this top tier level of test scoring.*

How do the new scores compare to last year's scores? The new cut scores represent a *significantly* higher standard for student achievement and are intended to more accurately reflect whether students are on track and prepared for college and careers. While we anticipate an initial decline in the number of students reported as "proficient," we are confident this change will be temporary due to ongoing school improvement efforts and student support.

Should parents be concerned if their child's proficiency level drops? Parents may notice their child is not at the same proficiency level as previous years. *A lower score does not mean that a child isn't gaining academic skills or is falling behind, but it is a reflection of higher standards.* If a child does not score at or above the proficient level on any of the assessments, this is an indication that, on the day of the test, the child had not yet mastered the skills or knowledge expected for his or her grade level. Many students might require additional help and/or time to master these skills. Actually, by the time parents and the school receive the results from the state, many students will have closed the gap. Parents may wish to talk to their child's teacher(s) about the results and the resources that can help ensure his or her success.

What can parents do to help their child become college and career ready? The single most important thing parents can do is to support education and make sure students are in school, on time, every day. Research indicates that students perform better at school when parents are active participants in their school life and support learning at home.

Learning how to take care of
your heart, jumping rope,
and helping other kids .

Where can more information about MEAP be found? Michigan Department of Education
<http://1.usa.gov/statetests> and a Video on CUT SCORES (excellent explanation of impact)
<http://www.mistreamnet.com/vidflv.php?who=resa121611>





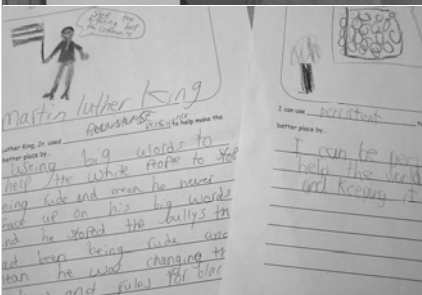
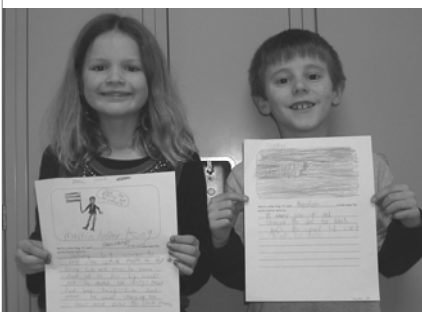
Kindergarteners Learn About Animal Defenses



Bartlett kindergartners recently finished a science unit on animal defenses. Students learned how dinosaurs defended themselves from other dinosaurs. Then, students compared and contrasted dinosaur defenses to the defenses of animals alive today. Next time you see a kindergartner, ask him/her how an octopus uses camouflage to protect itself from predators.

1st Grade Celebrates 100 Days!

On February 14th, the students in Mrs. Aills, Mrs. Ash, and Mrs. Frisk's classes celebrated their 100th day of first grade! Students participated in many activities throughout the day that involved the number 100. During reader's workshop the students read 100 books, and during writer's workshop they wrote about 100 things they could draw, eat, count, and have seen. At math workshop stations, the students counted to 100 by making crowns with 100 stickers, necklaces with 100 beads, and a yummy snack with 100 pieces of cereal, chocolate, crackers, and marshmallows. Everyone had a great time celebrating being 100 days smarter!



In celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, Bartlett second graders listened to the story "Martin's Big Words" by Doreen Rappaport. They also discussed the Habits of Mind that Dr. King demonstrated to help fight segregation and inequality. The students then had the opportunity to write about how Dr. King used Habits of Mind to make the world a better place. They also wrote a paragraph stating ways they could use the same Habits of Mind in their lives today.

Celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. in 2nd Grade

Third Grade Studies Native Americans

Bartlett third graders had a great time making Native American headdresses while studying The Early History of Michigan in social studies. The students got into three tribes called the Ottawa, Ojibwa, and Potawatomi and learned about the way the "Three Fires" tribes lived back in the day. They learned where the tribes lived in Michigan, what they ate, and the materials they used to build shelters. The students came to the conclusion that they are very lucky to be living in 2012!



4th Grade Engineers

Bartlett fourth grade scientists have been learning about motion and design. They enjoyed designing their own vehicle blueprint and then had to follow a blueprint to

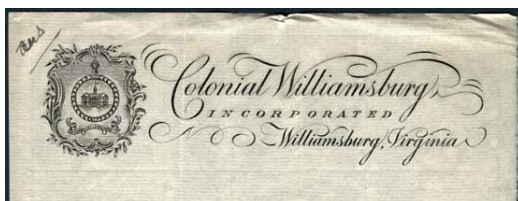


create a car. Once the car was built, they had fun testing the speed of the car when weights were attached. Next, they explored how carrying a load affects the motion of the vehicle. They are enjoying this unit and many are talking about engineering as a career!

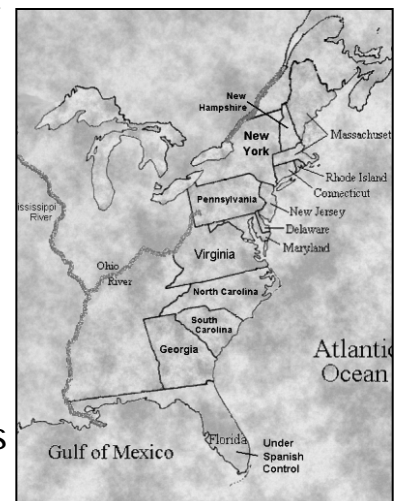


Looking at the American Colonies in 5th Grade

Bartlett 5th graders are learning about American colonial history. Students are analyzing primary sources to determine the push and pull factors which caused people to move from Europe and settle in these new colonies. The students are comparing and



contrasting the colonial regions, learning about the unique characteristics of each region.



Bartlett School Mission Statement

All members of the Bartlett School community are accountable for working as partners in a supportive environment to provide instruction that guides all students in acquiring skills and knowledge, while developing the independence needed for continuous learning.

A Message from the School Social Worker

Developing Your Child's Self-Esteem

Self-esteem is the collection of beliefs or feelings that we have about ourselves. Developing healthy self-esteem starts very early in a child's life as they learn about themselves and gain a sense of what they are able to accomplish successfully. Children with healthy self-esteem feel good about themselves, have an easier time handling conflicts, and can handle negative pressures. As a parent there are many things you can do to help build your child's self-esteem. Below are some tips:

- Praise your child for their effort
- Be a positive role model
- Be spontaneous and affectionate
- Create a safe and loving home environment
- Involve your child in activities that provide new experience

For more information on self-esteem in children and even more resources on health topics in kids, visit www.kidshealth.org. Information for this article came from the KidsHealth website.

Amy Forsyth
School Social Worker

Contingency Plans

Occasionally, school systems have to send students home early, due to weather conditions, power outages, boiler failure and so on. Although we try to avoid sending students home early, there have been times in the past and there will no doubt be times in the future, when this action is necessary. Please discuss this possibility with your children, and devise a plan for them to follow. Your plan might involve going straight home and calling you at work. It might involve going to the neighbor's house, if the neighbor agrees. It might involve a high school child staying at home with the younger children. Whatever plan is decided upon, make sure your children know it and follow it, for their safety and your peace of mind.

Important Telephone Numbers

School Office—
248-573-8300

Attendance Line—
248-573-8280

Please call the 24 hour attendance line for all absences.

Fax— 248-573-8320

School Closing Hotline—
248-573-8251

Bus Hotline—
248-573-8251

Other school Closing Sources:
WWJ-950 Newsradio
www.slcs.us

UPCOMING DATES

March

- 7 Pizza Kit Delivery 3:30-6:00 pm
13 Movie Night @ 7:00 pm "The Lorax"
14 No School for Students - Curriculum Day
14 Rolleramma 3:00-5:00 pm
19 PTO @ 3:30 pm
19-23 Jump Rope for Heart
23 DEAR @ 2:30 pm (Drop Everything And Read)
27-29 Vision Screening for grades 1, 3, & 5
28 Bartlett Talent Show Rehearsal 3:30-5pm
29 SIP @ 1:00 pm
29 Bartlett Talent Show 6-8 pm
30 Reading Month Assembly for Kindergarten 10:30 am
30- End of Reading Month Assembly for All Students
30 Movie Night @ 7:00 pm

April

- 2-6 Spring Break—No School
16 PTO @ 3:30 pm
17 Music Concert @ 6:00 pm, Greer, Lowney, Thompson, and Walters
18 Records Day—No School for Elementary
26 SIP @ 1:00 pm

Non-Discrimination Statement

The South Lyon Community School District does not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, or age in its programs, activities, or employment. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Melissa Baker
Assistant Superintendent for
Administrative Services
South Lyon Community Schools
345 Warren
South Lyon, Michigan 48178