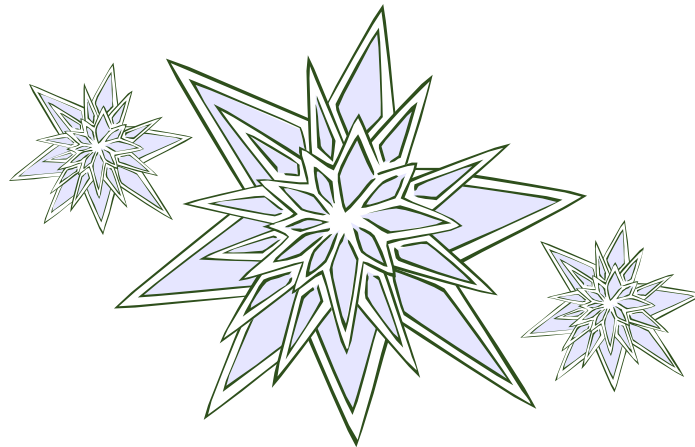


SOUTH LYON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

GOOD NEWS

DECEMBER 2010 AND JANUARY 2011



DECEMBER 2010

BARTLETT ELEMENTARY

- Student Council was in full swing at Bartlett! The nine nominees for the executive board presented their speeches live after a long weekend of practicing in front of their families. All nine nominees were incredibly excited and honored that they were nominated by their peers! The candidates were well prepared when they stood up in front of the Bartlett community to explain why they would make a great addition to the Student Council team. The student body voted for the candidates who they thought would do the best possible job for each position. Tanner Ostraff was elected president, Evelyn Keller was elected vice president, and Meghan Phile was elected as secretary. Congratulations to all of the candidates for their hard work and efforts! The student body also nominated and voted for class representatives. As a staff, we are looking forward to participating in service projects for our school and local community with the help of our newly elected Student Council members!
- The Metroparks Mobile Learning Center made a visit to Bartlett in December. The fourth grade had the opportunity to learn about the forest heritage of Michigan. The students enjoyed seeing the different logging tools like a buck saw and the picks used to un-clog a log jam on the river. Learning the nicknames for common food items was also a hit! 'Blackjack' is a word that logging camps used for coffee and 'firecrackers' was what the loggers called beans. Each student was able to get a job at the camp. Sometimes they were given a challenging activity to complete to determine who would be hired. To be a 'cookee' you had to flip a 'flapjack' into a frying pan! We had some very successful students! Who knew that learning about history could be so fun and entertaining!
- Bartlett students experienced a hands on assembly entitled Science Alive. Two biologists presented factual information about the animals they brought with them. Students were able to pet the animals and learn about animal classifications.
- The week before winter break, students were given the opportunity to make a holiday craft for someone special in their life. Parent volunteers made this possible by bringing in materials for each grade level.
- Bartlett third graders made a lot of noise this month! Experiments in the sound unit made it possible for students to create and learn about the ear drum and vocal cords. Students learned how pitch and volume are used while experimenting with tuning forks.

BRUMMER ELEMENTARY

- Our Student Council election took place on Thursday, December 16th, the day after our candidates gave speeches to urge students to vote for them. At lunchtime, all students had the opportunity to vote on-line for the candidate of their choice. We announced the

DECEMBER 2010

names of our new vice president, secretary, and treasurer on Friday morning, the 17th. Congratulations to Abby Elliott, Bobby Nuttall, and Meg Cichosz.

- Our third graders are making musical instruments to demonstrate what they have learned in their Science Sound Unit. They are making perfect music together!
- Thirty-eight fourth and fifth graders attended the Pizza Read-a-thon on January 11th. We read for forty-five minutes (without interruption) and then ate a ton of pizza! What a treat!
- The Kindergarten Concert was held on December 9th in our cafeteria. We filled the room with parents and grandparents enjoying the variety of holiday tunes sung by the five and six year old students. At the end of the concert, Dr. Brun read, "Twas the Night Before Christmas." What a surprise to have Santa come and join us, too!
- Congratulations to our new Chess Club for having such a successful fundraiser! They will be able to buy a special clock for their competitions!

DOLSEN ELEMENTARY

- The second graders were busy learning about place value in December. They learned how a digit can hold a different value depending on what place (ones, tens, or hundreds) it is in. The second graders also participated in a math workshop model, which allowed students to complete hands-on activities to solidify their understanding of concepts.
- The second graders started a unit on Changes. They were busy learning and talking about how things around them change. Students participated in hands-on experiments about solids, liquids, and gases. One experiment included comparing salt crystals before and after evaporation to notice the similarities and differences. They also learned the difference between physical and chemical changes by melting crayons, tearing paper, and manipulating clay.
- The second graders learned how schema helped them as readers to make inferences. Inferences happen when we ask questions that don't have a direct answer. Students generated questions starting with "why" or "how" to help them understand the message that the author was trying to relay.
- The second graders have been busy digging in soil. We analyzed how the materials in our compost bags have changed over the last couple of weeks. Students found out that as dead plants decompose they become part of the soil. We also learned about the parts of a plant and we grew cucumber seeds to examine why plants have roots.
- The second graders have been busy revising stories during writer's workshop. They learned how to add asterisks and flaps to fit in more details. They also learned how to

DECEMBER 2010

re-read stories and take out information that doesn't support the main idea in their story. Classes held a revision museum to celebrate and notice all of the revision changes.

HARDY ELEMENTARY

- The Hardy fifth graders competed against each other in the "Battle of the Books" where cooperative groups work together to answer questions about ten novels they have read from a book list.
- The Hardy staff and family community successfully provided Christmas for 5 families in the Hardy school community via our "Giving Tree". Their generosity was outstanding, and was truly a cause to celebrate.
- The Centennial Middle School choir entertained our upper grades on December 16th.
- International staff developer and author, Matt Glover worked with Hardy, Kent Lake and Sayre kindergarten, first and second grade teachers on writing workshop, and conferring with young writers.

KENT LAKE ELEMENTARY

- The Stelle Canto Choir had the privilege of singing at the Plymouth Whalers hockey game on December 10th. The choir sang The Star Spangled Banner and O'Canada before the game began. Most of the members and their families stayed to enjoy the Whalers' 5 to 2 win over Sault Ste. Marie. Families, friends, and staff purchased the tickets as a fundraiser for the choir. The money raised was used to get the choir members' blue and green choir t-shirts, which they wore for the first time the night of the game. The Whalers staff took great care of the students while they were there and has invited them back whenever they are available. The Stelle Canto Choir is made up of 64 fourth and fifth grade students from Kent Lake Elementary.
- On December 22nd, the Stelle Canto Choir and families took time out of their Winter Break to spread some holiday cheer. They started the evening by singing Holiday carols in the entrance of the New Hudson Walmart from 4:00-6:00 PM. Walmart was very generous to provide dinner for the choir for their hard work. Choir Director, Melinda Towns was presented with a gift of \$400 for the Kent Lake Music Program by Walmart's manager. The Choir then headed over to the Abbey Park Senior Living Center in New Hudson to visit and sing for the residents from 6:30-8:00 PM. After the Choir gave a short performance, the Abbey Park residents joined them in a holiday sing-a-long. Ms. Towns was so proud of the maturity that she saw from her Choir students as they sang, talked and laughed with the residents. It was a wonderful evening! We're hoping to make a regular tradition of visiting Abbey Park.

DECEMBER 2010

- First Graders at Kent Lake have a very special tradition in December. The classrooms immerse themselves in the tales of the Gingerbread Man. They begin by reading many versions of the Gingerbread Man (The Gingerbread Cowboy, The Gingerbread Girl, etc.). They compare how the stories are similar and different. They then plan out and write their own version of the Gingerbread Man. Throughout the study, the classes also study the parts of a story (setting, character, problem, and solution). In addition, the children learn gingerbread songs and decorate a gingerbread t-shirt. The final step in the tradition happens on the last day before holiday break. As a closing activity, parents are invited to hear the children sing their gingerbread songs and read their gingerbread stories. Can you catch the Gingerbread Man?
- The Kent Lake third graders combined their knowledge of geometry, measurement, and number sense to plan, design, and ultimately build gingerbread houses! They started with a lesson on perimeter and area. Students used graham crackers to determine the perimeter and area they needed to cover for each side and roof panel of their houses. They also determined the volume by estimating and then using centimeter cubes to fill their milk cartons. Then they confirmed their findings using the algorithm length x width x height. Later in the week, the students used the area of the graham crackers to determine how much of each candy they needed to create the designs they drew on their planning sheets. They also used measuring tools to find out how much of the candies they could get for the amount they paid. With a \$20 budget, they decided how much of each candy they could afford to create the designs of their dreams. After filling out purchase orders, they worked together to once again measure out the amounts in order to fill each other's purchase orders. They learned how to use a check register to deposit their \$20, write a check for the amount of their purchase orders, and balance their checkbooks. After all this hard work, they finally created their gingerbread houses on December 17th.
- On December 16th, five of our Kent Lake third students were given the opportunity to sing with Kenny Rogers and Billy Dean at their concert at the Fox Theater in Detroit. Third graders Brendan Dancer, Connor Fracassi, Ellie Harrison, Lucy Lovell, and Ian Streeter were the participating students. They learned a holiday medley of Silent Night, The Chosen One and Joy to the World. We had a great time and the kids were given an experience of a lifetime.

SALEM ELEMENTARY

- During our sound unit, 3rd graders created homemade musical instruments to share with the class. Instruments produced sounds by plucking, blowing, striking, etc.
- Fourth grade students began the process of writing an essay. So far, they have used several strategies to help generate ideas that they have that would make a good non-

DECEMBER 2010

narrative piece of writing. Students also began to craft thesis statements about one of their ideas that each student will eventually develop into a full essay!

- Salem students enjoyed an awesome ventriloquism assembly on December 8th.
- Salem's PTO sponsored a Santa's Gift Shop to provide an opportunity for students to shop for holiday gifts for their families.
- The turn-out for the holiday concert was great; there was standing room only. Everyone really seemed to enjoy the concert. Juice and cookies were served following the concert.

SAYRE ELEMENTARY

- Sayre first grade students in Mrs. Loewer's and Mrs. Stafford's classes explored different states of matter. They discovered differences and similarities between solids and liquids by investigating and testing properties of each. Students learned difficult vocabulary in dealing with these states of matter, such as if an item is "transparent," "opaque," "magnetic," "viscous," or "fluid." In Mrs. Armstrong's room, they used mesh screens to separate pebbles, gravel, and sand in the Pebbles, Sand, and Silt science unit. They learned the many uses for rocks. They were surprised to learn that rocks could be used in making jewelry!
- Sayre 5th graders spent time composing songs in groups to help them remember important information on European Explorers. They then performed these songs for their peers.
- Sayre third grade teachers used two half days of release time to study the math workshops in grade 2 and grade 4 classrooms. Afterward, they discussed the similarities and differences between the two workshop styles and how they could implement some of the effective strategies they saw into their own classroom workshops.
- Sayre 4th graders performed in their music informance on December 16. They played metallophones, xylophones, glockenspiels, and may other percussion instruments. They also sang many holiday songs and performed dances.
- Sayre students in grades 2-5 completed the bowling unit in their physical education classes. In 4th and 5th grades, they learned the four-step approach; in grades two and three they bowled from a balanced position. The gym wall was decorated with lots of "I bowled a strike!" and "I bowled a spare!" signs!
- Sayre 4th graders studied U.S. regions. They enjoyed a treat of blueberry muffins and cranberry juice, because those fruits are natural resources of the northeast region. In math, they created and used multiple methods to complete multi-digit multiplication problems and long division. In science, they studied the Earth, Moon, and Sun and scraped Oreos to depict the various phases of the moon.

DECEMBER 2010

- Sayre 3rd graders learned about Michigan history through the MetroPark Learning Lab. They participated in a presentation about the French fur trade. Students had the opportunity to see and touch objects from the time period. They acted out roles as well. Students had a good time learning about MI history!
- 5th graders in Mr. Metcalf's combination class started their geometry unit in math. They created flags that show reflection and rotational symmetry. 4th graders created advertisement posters and radio announcements to promote the various regions of the U.S. Both grades completed songs that teach and help them remember the parts of speech. Some of those tunes are quite catchy!
- Sayre second graders completed their science unit on Air and Weather in December. They are now experts in severe weather and weather instruments, and they can also tell you about the water cycle! In math, they worked on mastering regrouping in addition by using base ten blocks.
- Matt Glover, nationally-known writing instructor and expert, visited Sayre in December. He worked in one classroom in each of grades K-2, conducting a mini-lesson and conferencing with students while teachers observed. Our newly motivated teachers and always-sharp students thought it was a great learning experience!
- Mrs. Springer's and Mrs. VanAsselt's 4th and 5th grade language groups read an informational article about gorillas and orangutans, then compared and contrasted these animals through discussions, t-charts, and written paragraphs.
- Ms. Truesdell's 1st and 2nd graders studied holiday customs and traditions around the world in December. Students practiced reading skills, map skills, art, and social studies concepts in this integrated unit.

CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Exercises in team building were a part of gym class performances. Students gained a sense of security in working together constructively, using strategies to pull team members from one mat to another without touching the gym floor. Not only did they come together as a team but were enthusiastic in their management of the activity.
- CMS students and staff were treated to a "Teaser" where students could watch their talented peers perform for the upcoming play "And a Groundhog in a Pear Tree". Choir students sang several of their holiday songs, including the Christmas Canon, Carol of the Bells, Rockin' Down the Chimney Tonight, and others. Beginning, symphonic and concert band students performed a portion of their holiday concert. The wonderful performances left everyone wanting to see more.
- Students in Ms. Liang's Chinese class participated in a district wide middle school Chinese pen pal program. They wrote and read Chinese characters to other students of

DECEMBER 2010

similar age residing in the city of Yinchuan, the capital city of the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region in north central China. Students wrote their first letters, anxiously awaiting a reply from their new friends half way around the world. The activity will not only promote the building of a bridge between foreign lands but will give students real world proof that what they are learning is useful and meaningful.

- Students in Room 303 practiced patterns, fine motor skills and sequencing through the construction of a gingerbread house as a literature extension activity. After assembling, they had a fun edible project to enjoy for the holidays!
- The collective bands under the direction of Brian Pearson, Darel Middaugh, and Patrick Heber held their winter band concert to standing room only. Band students gave an excellent performance of holiday carols enjoyed by all. Other tunes included Sawmill Creek, Regal March, and many more.

MILLENNIUM MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Students in 7th grade Language Arts and Plus Language Arts completed a review of Commas and Capitalization. The students read the play "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. While reading the play, they completed various writing activities and working with groups creating a Reform poster. In the Plus class, the students also completed the novel "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. Along with the story, the students were involved in Literature Discussion groups. As part of this assignment, the students created their own songs based on the novel and a traditional Christmas song. The students also completed Independent Reading Activities which gave them an opportunity to learn about Symbolism and Themes.
- 7th graders in Mrs. Bratt, Mr. Gilders, and Ms. Viers' Social Studies classes completed a European Map Project. Students not only be made maps for the country of their choice, but they also filled the map with many interesting facts. They essentially became experts on the country they were researching.
- 6th grade students in Mr. Levitan's Technology classes ("techsters") studied communications with a focus on robotics and writing. They learned to program, manipulate and work a robotic arm. They also wrote a one page summary, including a cover page and bibliography, that concentrated on how something in the field of communications works. 8th grade "techsters" studied construction. They built a 2 1/2" cube out of straw and string that was able to support a 3 pound soup can on as many sides as possible. This led to the balsa wood bridges project where groups of students built a bridge that weighed only a few grams but held a load of at least 25 pounds before failing.
- Mrs. Candelieri's 6th grade Math classes created cartoon enlargements as an introduction to the Stretching and Shrinking unit. The students used the cartoons to

DECEMBER 2010

investigate how a shape changes when it is enlarged or reduced, paying particular attention to the changes in side lengths, perimeter, and angle measures. (See picture of math cartoons).

- The Student Council sponsored its annual Holiday Food Drive. Over 1,500 items of food were collected from MMS students and families. The food was donated to Active Faith in time for the holidays.

SOUTH LYON HIGH SCHOOL

- Toni Simovski gave a speech at commencements in December as the Alumni speaker to U of M-Dearborn graduates. He told the graduates how much a Michigan degree means by telling them his story, how he became an interpreter for the US military in Macedonia and how many Michigan graduates I met along the way.
- Rep. Hugh Crawford visited SLHS AP Government classes on 12/06/2010. He took numerous questions from a vast array of topics that dealt with school funding, the Michigan economy, what Mr. Crawford does in Lansing and locally and other important topics. The kids really found his visit insightful and he plans to come back in the spring after this successful visit.
- This year marked the 7th Annual Staff Holiday Contribution at South Lyon High School! Many members of our staff donated gifts to three families in financial need, all who have students that attend SLHS. The generous donations allowed these families to celebrate the Holidays without additional financial burden and to truly experience kindness and joy during the Holiday Season.
- AP Government classes make a field trip to the Henry Ford Museum, where they visited the Liberty and Justice for All Exhibit to learn about civil rights and how individual freedoms have been expanded since the founding and then the students learned about some of the major artifacts in the Museum and their impact on society.
- A staff holiday breakfast was held on Friday, December 17. The administrators and secretaries cooked up a hearty meal of sausage and waffles (with a variety of toppings) for the entire staff. Chad Scaling, principal, initiated the idea to kick-off the holiday season and express appreciation to the staff for their hard work so far this year
- In Choir news, junior Laine Foster was selected to perform with the MSVMA Honors Choir during the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids on January 22nd. The Lyon Singers performed holiday music live in the WDIV Channel 4 studios during the morning news broadcast on Saturday, December 18th.

DECEMBER 2010

SOUTH LYON EAST HIGH SCHOOL

- Congratulations to Jacqueline Rogge on making State Honors Choir!
- Our very talented Junior Varsity Cheerleaders competed against Pinckney High School, Lakeland High School and Wayne Memorial High School on December 11th and took first place. Way to go Cougars!!!!
- The Band and Choir students at South Lyon East have been busy sharing their musical talents with the community and raising funds for their April 2011 trip to New York City.

On December 4, the VFW Hall was the place to be for the Cougar Christmas Cabaret and Spaghetti Dinner. The tables were full all afternoon and evening as guests enjoyed their dinners while listening to a variety of musical performances by the students and staff of South Lyon East. In conjunction with this event, a drawing for a 42" TV, iPad, and iPod took place at the end of the evening. With the support of the families, friends, and community, this event brought in over \$7,000 that will be applied to the students' trip. The Cabaret Planning Committee would like to thank everyone in the community who came and supported the kids in their efforts to "make it to New York". The generosity of the following businesses is also greatly appreciated: Plymouth Whalers, Applebee's, Raney's Nursery, Nail Cottage, Target, Lyon Grill, Walmart, Gina Agosta Hair Color Design & Spa, and Gordon Food Service.

- The East Music Department just held their Winter Concert on December 16. The Women's Choir, Cougar Chorale, and Symphonic Band were featured as they played music from the Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa traditions. The Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Band and various other small ensembles also performed.
- Congratulations to Junior John Steudle for making the Glassmen Drum and Bugle Corp.
- Latin Club Makes Its Debut at East - Seventeen East students will be taking the National Latin Examination on Tuesday, March 8, 2011. The South Lyon East High School Latin Club, under the direction of Mr. Richard Grieves, has been meeting after school on Thursdays since mid-September, 2010. The goal of the club is to prepare students for the National Latin Examination; to enhance students' understanding of English, Spanish, and German grammar and vocabulary by studying the Latin roots of these languages; and to help students to prepare for professions-- e.g. Nursing, Pharmacy, Law, Medicine--that require a knowledge of Latin.

Students taking the National Latin Examination are eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship towards a university major or minor in Classics, Greek, or Latin.

When the Latin Club was active at South Lyon High School, several students who participated in the club earned top honors on the National Latin Examination and improved their admissions profile for top ranked universities such as Notre Dame, Michigan, and Harvard.

DECEMBER 2010

Students in the Latin Club receive no academic credit whatsoever; they simply study the Latin Language for the love of learning.

Miss Ellen Waisanen, Spanish Department, will proctor the examination during Cougar Period on March 8, 2011.

Mr. Larry Jackson, Principal, and Mrs. Linda Bowman, Assistant Principal, have been tremendous supporters of the club, emphasizing its value for students who wish to improve their knowledge of language, their university admissions academic profile, and their knowledge of culture.

- The SLE band and choir did the anthems at the Plymouth Whalers Game on Saturday, January 8. This was a combined fundraiser for the band and choir. They sold tickets and filled a whole section of the arena with South Lyon East family and friends, making \$856 in profit! The choir sang "O Canada", and the band played "The Star Spangled Banner" before the game. They enjoyed the game and had a great time!!!
- In December the student council adopted a family. They provided winter clothes, household items and other goods the family needed. The council donated to make a difference this holiday season.