

SOUTH LYON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

GOOD NEWS

JANUARY 2010



Bartlett Elementary

- As part of the Matter & Molecules unit, fifth grade students learned that gases expand when they are heated and contract when they are cooled. Students began with a cold pop bottle. They placed a tiddly wink on top of the bottle and then held the bottle. The warmth from their hands warmed the air in the bottle expanding it. When the air molecules escaped through the top, the tiddly wink “danced!”
- Mrs. Allor's class put on an Author's Celebration for the Personal Narratives they were working on in class! Every student and their writing partner sat in front of the class and shared their narrative writing piece. Before sharing their own piece, students were introduced by their writing partner. This person shared at least two things that their partner, the author, did especially well in their writing. Each piece of writing was followed with two questions and/or compliments from the audience, the rest of the class. The students truly enjoyed hearing each other's wonderful writing!
- On January 6th and 7th, students in third, fourth, and fifth grade had the opportunity to participate in the Annual Bartlett Spelling Bee. All the participants were impressive spellers! The following students placed in the top three rankings for their grade level. In third grade: Jay Long, Savanna Hoin, and Kearra DeJack. In fourth grade: Jacob Jaskolski, Hannah Elandt, and Jenna Paulsen. In fifth grade: Adam Melcher, Emma Fitzgerald, and Austin Nevitt. Congratulations to all who participated!
- Students throughout Bartlett celebrated Martin Luther King Day on January 18th. Some students made “I Have a Dream” mobiles, where they wrote their dreams for their school, family, and world. Other students listened to Dr. King’s, “I Have a Dream” speech. They discussed the big ideas and the relevance of his message on their lives today. Some students even wrote their own, “I Have a Dream Speech”!
- Third graders worked on their unit “Finding the Moon.” They learned about the Moon’s phases and as homework every night, they recorded the Moon’s pattern. Students realized that the Moon does not produce its own light; instead it is light reflected from the Sun.

Brummer Elementary

- Brummer is Twittering! If you would like to check us out, go to <http://twitter.com/SLCSBrummer>.
- Game Boy Week was the week of January 18th. Students were encouraged to bring a hand-held game to school to use during their lunch recess. Each grade had one lunchtime recess scheduled for "Game Boys." We saw a variety of technology on those days, from Leapsters to I-pods! What a special treat this was for our students during these cold winter days!
- Brummer Elementary School had their Spelling Bee on Wednesday, January 27th, after school. Each third, fourth and fifth grade classroom identified five representatives to participate in the Bee. Special thanks to Cathy Covert for her dedication to this event. We say T-H-A-N-K-S!

- On Thursday, January 21st, our second and third grade students were invited to attend the Rock 'N Read activity at 7 p.m., in the library. Each student was asked to bring lots of books to read and their dancing shoes. Students read for twenty minutes, then did lots of dancing; the twist, the mashed potato, or the hand-jive, whatever suited their fancy - then more reading for another twenty minutes, another dance, and then finished up with reading for the final twenty minutes! What a fun way to celebrate our reading skills!
- At our Brummer Neighborhood Council meeting on January 12th, Mrs. Cheryl Kelm and seven of her fourth graders demonstrated a math lesson which involved the students in metacognition (thinking about their thinking). A resource from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics was distributed to the parents. The title of the article was, "How to help your child succeed at Math."

Dolsen Elementary

- First graders did a fabulous job learning about tree homes and how animals use them. The kids loved learning about nocturnal animals and their behaviors. They also began studying solids and liquids. In this study they used their prior knowledge from their kindergarten study of properties. They developed their skills of observation, classification, sorting and comparing.
- Second graders finished their science unit called Changes where the focus was on solids, liquids and gases and how one state changes to another. They had a great time learning and exploring.
- Third graders finished their essay units in writing, and geometry. In science they learned the different phases of the moon. They began their "wax museum" projects and did research with biographies to learn about people who have made a difference in the world.
- Fourth grade had a birthday party for Michigan. Students made posters and wrote poems on Michigan. They also finished the Earth, Moon and Sun unit in science.
- Fifth graders finished their Shapes and Designs unit in math and started Bits and Pieces II. They finished their detailed explorers map in social studies and looked forward to learning about the first colonies.

Hardy Elementary

- Second graders worked hard on revising their writing in writer's workshop. Students learned how to improve their pieces by going back into their stories and adding, deleting, or rearranging their ideas. They also learned how to write interesting leads and stronger endings. Students used a checklist to make sure that their ideas were clear to the reader.
- Second graders had "mystery readers" visit their classrooms throughout the year. The "mystery readers" sent in five clues about themselves ahead of time. One clue was given each day of the week. Students used their thinking skills to try and figure out who would be reading to the class at the end of the week.

- Second graders participated in a building wide detective activity presented by the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. They used clues and a crime laboratory to narrow down suspects in the case of the missing Hardy Husky. Imagine their surprise when students learned that it was Principal Warren who absconded with our beloved school mascot!
- Second graders explored the law of magnetic attraction in science. They participated in hands-on investigations to visualize this invisible force. They even learned that the Earth is a giant magnet and that compasses use the earth's magnetic force. Many careers such as pilots and sea captains utilize this science.
- Second graders participated in a variety of math games to strengthen their number sense and develop basic math facts. Students also used math manipulatives, such as base ten blocks to grasp difficult mathematical concepts.

Kent Lake Elementary

- The Kent Lake PTO spelling bee took place on January 20. Seventy-nine children participated in grades 3-5. Congratulations to this year's PTO spelling bee winners:

3 rd Grade:	Jack Dawson (first place)	4 th Grade:	Sonja Huhdanpaa (first place)
	Nantan Myers (second place)		Julie King (second place)
	Noah Desantis (third place)		Bailey Palmer (third place)
	Nick Holycross (third place)		
5 th Grade:	McKenzi Roe (first place)		
	Joe VanDyke (second place)		
	AJ Bodell (third place)		

- The Kindergartners celebrated Letter People Day on January 20. The day started with a Letter People Parade in which each child dressed as their favorite letter person and paraded down the halls of Kent Lake for all student and staff to cheer them on! The celebration continued in the classroom with Letter Bingo, Letter Games, Letter Bean Bag Toss, Letter Scavenger Hunt, and Letter Snacks!
- The third and fourth graders at Kent Lake had an educational visit to Michigan's State Capitol. During the tour of the capitol building, students learned about the different wings that held the house of representatives, senate, and formerly the state supreme court. They also saw the governor's office. The tour guide explained how the portraits of each governor get placed, and why one of them was unfinished. After learning about the history and architecture of the capitol, the third and fourth graders then had a quick visit to the State Historical Museum.
- After looking at several examples of winter landscapes as a class, students noticed that an interesting landscape needs an emphasis, or focal point. This is especially true in the winter months, when cold skies can look washed out or wash out other details of a landscape. Fourth grade artists began their own winter landscapes, using watercolor paint. They first drew an up close view of pine branches in oil pastel, and painted over it

with watercolor, which resists the drawing. Students mixed cool colors for the background and used salt on their wet paintings for the effect of falling snow. (The salt absorbs the water and some of the paint, which creates a "snowy" effect when dry). Students also added cardinals to the paintings, which became the focal point of the painting. The cardinals were an integral part of the landscape, primarily as a focal point, and also to show contrast to the cool colors of the sky as well as the green branches, showing complementary colors, making both colors (greens and reds) appear brighter together.

- The 5th graders of C112 sponsored a school wide "Hats for Haiti" fundraising event to raise money for the relief efforts in Haiti. This event took place on Wednesday, January 27th. Students were encouraged to bring in a donation of 50 cents to wear a hat for a day.

Salem Elementary

- As part of Salem's effort to "Go Green" Salem students entered the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Earth Day poster contest. The contest was created to promote environmental awareness by giving students an opportunity to design and create a poster celebrating an Earth Day theme. Last year more than 1,300 posters were submitted from all over Michigan.
- Salem participated in its 2nd annual Math-A-Thon this year. The students raised a whopping \$4,835.30 to benefit St. Jude's.
- Students participated in a variety of grade level activities to celebrate Martin Luther King Day! Forth and fifth graders viewed a video that contains real footage of historical events in King's life as well as writing an essay about Martin Luther King and his dream.
- An Investigative Math Assembly was held on January 19 for all grade levels. The assembly encouraged creative problem solving, explored math patterns and tackled story problems.
- Kindergarten students read "Just Right" books during our Reading Workshop. They practiced important reading strategies such as:
 - Check the picture
 - Get your mouth ready
 - Find word chunks you know
 - Think about what would make sense
 - Reread

Sayre Elementary

- Sayre 3rd graders learned about how sound is produced as well as the difference between pitch and volume. Students experimented with sound by using tuning

forks, arranging different sizes of nails and building slide whistles. The students learned that sound is made through vibrations.

- In art class, third grade students created paintings depicting what they liked about school. Several paintings were submitted to the Michigan Education Association to be entered into a magazine cover contest.
- Sayre 4th graders studied the social studies theme of movement in January. They learned about and compared the Westward Movement, the Underground Railroad, the Great Migration, and several others. They also discussed the push and pull factors for each of these movements.
- Sayre Elementary hosted a “Bingo for Books” family event on January 22. New and gently used books were donated throughout the month, and winners of the bingo games selected their choice of reading material from those that had been collected.
- The annual Sayre Variety Show was held on January 28, 2010. More than forty acts and 105 students thought flexibly, used appropriate humor, and took responsible risks as they entertained the audience. Even twelve members of the Sayre staff joined in the fun with a crowd-pleasing dance. It was an event to remember!

Centennial Middle School

- Mrs. Gow’s eighth grade Journalism class worked with Student Publishing Company to print their stories in individual books. They created colorful pictures for their covers and were able to take home their own fictional tales published in a paperback book, complete with information about the authors. The value of the books, priceless!
- How much would a soda can weigh on other planets? Sixth graders researched why some objects weigh the same when planets are not the same size. They discovered the further the distance an object is from the center of a planet, the less the gravitational pull. Soda cans were used to demonstrate the weight and mass for their assignment. The National Geographic Bee was held on Wednesday, January 13th. The competition started in social studies classes to determine a class champion. Class winners competed taking the top ten finalists until there were two contestants left for the Championship round and title of Centennial Middle School National Geographic Bee School Champion. This year’s winner was sixth grader Ryan Ziegelmann. Ryan completed a seventy question test in an effort to qualify for the state level championship hosted by Jeopardy’s Alex Trebek.
- The third annual Jigsaw Jeopardy Review Day was held to help eighth grade students prepare for mid-term exams in their four core subjects. Students attended their individualized schedules, working with teachers to become “experts” in their strongest subject. They then broke into groups of four core subject experts, teaching each other. Teams faced off in a competitive game of Jeopardy followed by a lunchtime celebration. Afterwards the review continued in areas where students felt they needed it most. Everyone stayed focused and on task while having fun preparing for exams!
- A luncheon was held for CMS students who received positive referrals for good behavior, being helpful, or practicing exceptional Habits of Mind. Pizza was served and

each student received a certificate from Principal Phillips and Assistant Principal Ross. The luncheon was a huge success!

Millennium Middle School

- On Friday, January 15, 2010 Millennium Middle School showed their support and generosity by participating in a special "Hat and Slipper" Day. Close to \$500 was raised for the American Red Cross Emergency Relief Fund. Sixth, Seventh and Eighth grade students showed their Millennium spirit by purchasing Hat and/or Slipper stickers. Many students made additional donations! Way to go Mustangs!
- Ten semi-finalists competed in the Geography Bee held January 6. After several tough rounds of questions, 6th grader Madelyn Kohne emerged as our school champion. Semi-Finalists were: 8th graders Danielle Alexander, Jack Leckner, Nick Naumann, Dominic Thorley; 7th graders Megan Renehan, Andrew Gobis, and Eric Foster; 6th graders Sam Clement, Madelyn Kohne, Hawkins Lewis
- 6th Grade Industrial Technology students studied recycling. They formed groups and were given topics such as clothing, electronics, metals, paper, plastics, and "I didn't know you could recycle that...". The rotational long tie-in was that the students collected recyclables throughout the school on Fridays and deposited it to the proper facilities.
- On January 15, nearly 200 singers, from SLHS, SLEHS, MMS, AND CMS, packed into the SLHS Choir room for an exciting afternoon of singing, improvisation, team building, and leadership activities. Choir camp activities were led by Andrew Hathikhanavala, SLEHS choir director, Steven Lorenz, SLHS choir director, and the Choir Council (student leadership organization at SLHS). The students learned three songs, played improvisation games, and engaged in circle singing (student-led improvisation). Singers at MMS and CMS were able to get a sense for what choir is like at the HS-level while building their leadership and sight-reading skills in the process
- Eighth grade students demonstrated their skill and knowledge by taking the EXPLORE test on January 7. EXPLORE is a timed test that provides students with the opportunity to prepare for high school, college and work. Testing included sections in English, math, reading and science, plus a career section to help students find careers which match their interests.

South Lyon East High School

- In January, legislative debater Alison Johnson and Patrick Humfleet competed and finished as Michigan Interscholastic Forensics Association semifinalist in legislative debate. Two hundred students competed at the event held in Caledonia, Michigan on January 9, 2010. Patrick is a novice who wrote a bill to eliminate the Electoral College and Alison is a varsity competitor who authored a speech on Credit Card Loan Sharking. Both of the students were recognized as state semifinalists at the awards assembly.
- We are well into the age of electronics and students absolutely thrive on technology and its many possibilities. On January 15th, in Algebra 2, students learned about quadratic

equations and their graphs. Students were familiar with the quadratic equation and were used to mathematically computing it by hand. However, during that day in January student wrote a program in their calculators using the quadratic equation. Students can use these skills to write determine rocket trajectories and solve light reflection and parabolic relationships. Students also gained a basic introduction to writing a program in their graphing calculator and they can use these skills to write other programs in coming attractions.

- During the week of January 11, 2010 we celebrated winter with a spirit filled week of activities and a major dance. We honored all of our winter athletes at a huge assembly and all in all had a great time. The Winterfest King and Queen were crowned at the boy's basketball game against South Lyon Lions. This year's theme was Winter Wonderland! Classes competed for spirit points all week to win the coveted title of Mr. and Miss South Lyon East Spirit. Students had to show spirit by wearing winter items related to keeping warm, favorite university, class colors, music genre day and the teachers were hilarious, and finally demonstrate school spirit by wearing black and silver. Points from these activities, were added to totals from the lunch time competitions, a first at East! Students competed on their own as well to win prizes at the pep assembly. The lucky Ryan Foley won the I-Touch and the winner of the Spirit Contest went to ...Spencer Tamany and Jane Barackman. In the future, please refer to them as Mr. and Miss Spirit. They won a sports pass for next year to cheer on the Cougars. These fun activities bring the classes closer in working together to make South Lyon East one of the most spirited filled schools around!
- The month of January was filled with good news for SL East Cheer. This year, we expanded our number of competitive cheerleaders from 14 in 2009 to 32 in 2010, and we are growing as a team and as a program every day in skill and spirit. On January 6th, both the Freshman and Varsity cheer teams successfully hosted a home meet against Livonia Stevenson and Novi High School. Both teams fought hard to place 2nd at that meet and the parents, classmates and coaches from other teams at SL East came out to support the girls and cheer them on to their win. The girls had a lot of fun decorating the school with signs and encouraging classmates to come and check out what the cheerleaders do during their competitive season. That same week, on January 9th, the Freshman and Varsity teams traveled to a cheer invite at Novi, where the freshman again placed 2nd in their division and the Varsity team captured their first ever 1st place trophy! The Varsity and Freshman teams were awarded with gold and silver medals, respectively, to display on their Varsity jackets and represent South Lyon East. The following Saturday, both cheer teams traveled to Ladywood High School to compete once again in Division 2 and both teams came home with another 2nd place victory! Finally, on January 23rd, both teams traveled to Warren Mott High School for a Division 2 cheer invite and both teams were successful yet again with 3rd place finishes against their toughest completion to date. On the 30th, the South Lyon East Varsity and Freshman Cheer teams will compete their invite season at Berkley High School and then advance into KLAA and district championships in February. Their coach, Tracie Hovarter, has never been so proud of the accomplishments of the cheerleaders at South

Lyon East and the challenges that they have overcome in the last year to build the program to the level it is at now is astounding. As they succeed, they also learn the value of pride in their school and their community and the importance of serving as a role model for the younger members of the community that are there watching their every move. They are a shining example, each and every day, of small town community life and Cougar Pride!

- The South Lyon East Girls Bowling team did well in the month of January! The Ladywood tournament was on January 9th. The girls placed 8th and shot a 2930. They have won most of their meets. They have bowled against Howell, South Lyon, Brighton and on January 30, 2010 will bowl against Hartland. On Sunday, January 24th, they bowled in the Oakland County Championship at Drakeshire Lanes in Farmington. They qualified 7th out of 26, shooting a 3299. They went on to bowl at Waterford Kettering but they unfortunately lost. The team is looking forward to bowling in the regional meet on February 26-27th.
- Various programs have occurred during January to assist students in doing well on their final exams. For two consecutive weeks, our After School Assistance Program (ASAP) occurred each Monday and Thursday. In addition, the week prior to finals, Cougar Hours were held on Tuesday and Thursday in core areas as students attended the course of their choice to review content expectations and ask questions. In large group sessions, such as those held in the auditorium, the teacher handed out 3 x 5 cards for students to write down any questions they had. Cards were collected and handed to the classes. Our goal is for the success of all students on their finals.

South Lyon High School

- Men's Chorus students from both South Lyon high schools and middle schools joined voices to sing the U.S. and Canadian National Anthems at the Plymouth Whalers vs. Kitchener Rangers home game on Saturday, January 9, 2010. Fifty male choir students walked out on the ice during opening ceremonies to perform *The Star Spangled Banner* and *O Canada* before 85 of their family members and thousands of hockey fans at the Compuware Arena on Beck Road in Plymouth. The South Lyon School District Men's Chorus group is made up of male choir students in grades 6 through 12. This is the first time for the group to sing the national anthems at a hockey game, and the first such collaboration between South Lyon High School (SLHS), South Lyon East High School (SLEHS), Millennium Middle School (MMS), and Centennial Middle School (CMS).
- South Lyon High School's Legislative Debate Team competed at the Michigan Interscholastic Forensics Association's Legislative Debate State Finals, at Caledonia High School, on January 9th. Novices Miguel Martinez and Charlotte Foley finished as semi finalist. Novices Devin Petricca and Candice McGeachy finished as finalists and Sarah Shelton took 7th place overall in the state. Varsity, Nick Evans finished his competitive legislative debate career as a state semi-finalist. Nick's global warming bill made it to the state docket also.

- The Henry Ford Museum conducted a symposium for Martin Luther King Day on January 18, 2010. Mr. Simovski took 40 students from his AP Government and Government classes from South Lyon High school to the event. The Guest Speaker was Dr. Clayborne Carson, a professor at Stanford University and a Civil Rights Scholar. He talked about King's impact on the United States and what he would have thought about President Obama getting elected. After his lecture, a student panel discussion was held where two students from South Lyon High School participated- Juniors Gordon Galorneau and Tommy Slankard from Mr. Simovski's AP Government class along with two students from Saline High School. The panel discussion was conducted by Dr. Carson and dealt with non-violent protests and how they work today compared to the 1960's. After the symposium, the students went through exploring the Museum as admission was free due to Target sponsoring the event.
- The South Lyon High School (SLHS) Lyon Singers ensemble joined top singers from two Ann Arbor high schools and an Ann Arbor men's choir, Measure to Measure, to participate in a performance of Mozart's "Requiem" with the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Maestro Arie Lipsky, at Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor on Saturday, January 23. The Lyon Singers, Measure to Measure members, and the Huron and Pioneer High Schools' occapella choirs is a combined chorus of 150 singers. "This was an amazing experience for the Lyon Singers and the community," said Steven R. Lorenz, vocal music director and conductor for SLHS Choirs. "Mozart's 'Requiem' is a composition performed with such melodic grace that it is considered one of Mozart's most popular and respected works."
- In the spring of 2009, SLHS Principal, RJ Weber was nominated and selected as the 2010 Science Administrator of the Year by the Board of the Michigan Science Teachers Association. This award is presented each year to an Administrator who has demonstrated a commitment to Science education in a K-12 school. This is one of the most prestigious awards that the Association bestows on any administrator. RJ was nominated by SLHS Science Facilitator, Rick Fike, on behalf of the entire Science Department. Once an administrator is nominated an extensive selection process begins. Dr. Pearson, Dr. Schmeichel, and Rick Fike each filed their recommendations with the MSTA. The board then reviewed the materials from administrators across the State and made their selection. Mr. Weber will be honored at an Awards Ceremony at the 2010 MSTA convention in Lansing, on March 5th. A reception follows the awards ceremony for members to meet the honorees.
- The SLHS Choirs Varsity Women's Choir ensemble performed at the 5th Annual Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids on Friday, January 22. The 42-member, all women ensemble was one of only six chosen from statewide auditions to perform at the three-day annual conference for K-12 music educators. They were selected by a blind audition after submitting a CD of their past performances. The CD was evaluated by a listening panel of choir directors who did not know the names of the schools or ensembles involved.
- This year's Art Show in the Media Center was a huge success! Works from all disciplines in the Art Department were displayed for all to enjoy. The Art department decided for

this year they would have everyone vote for their favorites, "The People's Choice Awards". The following students were selected for their work (2 per class):

- Drawing & Painting: Vivianne Larssen (winner), Rachael Rose (finalist)
 - Photo: 3-way tie: Steven Burkhart, Meghan Sullivan, and Stephanie Kula
 - Metalsmithing: Durim Gega (winner), Lauren Frazier (finalist)
 - Ceramics: Ty Clearwood (winner), Erik Gootee (finalist)
 - Sculpture: 5 student group work: Erica Keith, Meri Mullins, Brook Skupinski, Andrew Jacobson, and Mackenzie Reid
 - Art Fundamentals: Jenny Davis (winner), Vicki Taylor (finalist)
- Art teachers, Lisa Dunn, Joel Smigell and Trish Adams participated in the Scholastic Arts Competition. Work was submitted from Sculpture Drawing and Painting, Fundamentals of Art I, Metalsmithing and Photography I and II. The caliber of the Scholastic Arts Competition is extremely high and represents all of southeast Michigan schools. Some of the schools that have artwork accepted continue to achieve great artworks through rigorous and exhaustive programs with extensive budgets. We are very proud of all the students who have submitted their work to this competition. Trish Adams expressed, "It is by comparing our work to others that we see what is possible and reach for that pinnacle of excellence." One of South Lyon High School's students, Vivianne Larssen, submitted the watercolor, "On the Wings of the Eagle" and was selected for the show. Vivianne will have her work shown at the Center for Creative Study in Detroit and then possibly onto the show and competition in New York. Joel had three photographs submitted into the show. Ms. Adams' students included: Eric Pranger and Veronica Bell from Sculpture, Vivianne Larssen watercolor and colored pencil drawing and Rachale Rose's colored pencil drawing from Drawing and Painting I. Ms. Dunn's students included: Adv. Photo: Julie Kapler and Ashley Glenn; Metalsmithing: Erin Schopa (2), Matt Haggard, Lauren Frazier, and Alex McComb; Art Fundamentals: Vicki Taylor (2); and Jenny Davis. Two Advanced Photo and Independent Study Photo students, Meghan Sullivan and Stephanie Kula, submitted an 8-item portfolio, which included an artist's statement and teacher recommendation.