

SOUTH LYON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

GOOD NEWS

NOVEMBER 2009



### **Bartlett Elementary**

- The Bartlett Safety Patrol gave students an opportunity to provide service to their school community. This year the patrol consisted of fifty-six 5th grade students. Examples of the different services provided by the safety patrol include: manning the school store, raising and lowering the flag, assisting kindergarten students to and from buses, assisting in the office at lunch, and monitoring student hall behavior in the morning. Student leadership of the patrol consists of a captain and two lieutenants. In January, the students will elect new officers and will be given the opportunity to change job assignments.
- Fourth grade readers were busy reading Biographies! Reading groups learned about people such as Helen Keller, Marco Polo, Thomas Jefferson, and Amelia Earhart just to name a few! They started timelines of important events in their lives and moved on to character traits that described each person. Students concluded the unit by writing Biopoems about each person!
- Third graders were busy learning about the Geography of Michigan. The students explored our state's natural and human features, and really enjoyed learning all of our State symbols.
- The Bartlett kindergarteners learned about the life cycle of trees. They took a field trip to Plymouth Orchards and Cider Mill, where they learned about apple trees. Students also got to pick an apple and a pumpkin. Afterwards, they enjoyed cider and doughnuts. The kindergarteners had a great time learning about apple trees and enjoying the fall weather.
- In the first grade science unit, Pebbles, Sand, and Silt, students examined different types of earth materials. In the first investigation, they looked at three different types of rock: basalt, tuff, and scoria. Students examined them with a hand lens, rubbed them together to see what happens, washed them to see how they change when they are wet, and sorted them in various ways.
- Bartlett students had the privilege of seeing, "Diversity Circus with Doug Scheer". It was a great opportunity for the children to learn how to be fair, aware, include, and respect others. Doug Scheer presented diversity in a fun way using magic and many volunteers from the audience. The children absolutely loved it!

### **Brummer Elementary**

- Opening of the Parent Resource Center took place on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. The Center includes parenting books, updated news items from the Brummer Neighborhood Council, and a series of books for parents to use when working with their children on their reading skills. The Center is open from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. daily.
- For the tenth year in a row, Brummer had 100% attendance at our Parent/Teacher Conferences. We were so proud of our families for making this event a priority with us.

- On Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, the second and third grade students were invited to attend a Rock 'N Read activity at 7 p.m., in the library. We read and danced to music from the 50's and 60's. What fun!
- Our first Book Fair of the year opened on November 13<sup>th</sup> and ran through November 19<sup>th</sup>. Many new books were available to our families. We even had the entire 39 Clues series!
- Deck those halls! All of our students participated in a concert in December. The kindergartners looked all spiffed up in their best closes and reindeer headbands. We all sang our favorite holiday songs and learned new ones, too! Santa visited us and really surprised everyone!

### **Dolsen Elementary**

- In October our kindergartners learned about past and present. They thoroughly enjoyed listening to "record player music" and comparing life in the past to what they know now.
- Second Grade students went to the Greenfield Village in October as part of their social studies unit on communities. The village helped the students gain historical perspective and to see how communities change over time.
- Third grade finished their first unit in science and had fun planting and learning about the life cycle. They worked on multiplication tables greater than five and fractions.
- Fifth graders finished their prime time unit and have started fractions. They worked very hard on publishing personal narratives.
- Dolsen experienced a very high turn-out for parent/teacher conferences and our students have made some huge progress during the first marking period.

### **Hardy Elementary**

- We had internationally renowned author and staff developer Katie Wood Ray meet with the Hardy teachers on the November 3<sup>rd</sup>, staff development day. She worked with the Hardy staff on deepening our understanding of writing instruction.
- On November 18<sup>th</sup>, the parents, staff and students of Hardy participated in a Family Math Night sponsored by Hardy PTO and Learning Gizmos. Mrs. Bondy's first grade won the grand prize of \$75 worth of math games for the classroom for the highest percentage of students participating. Over 450 people attended.
- The Hardy Lap-a-thon was a huge success! The students at Hardy earned \$16,623 for programs and activities sponsored by the Hardy PTO.
- On November 22, the Hardy Girls On The Run Club ran their first 5K at Kensington Metro Park. The club was sponsored by Katrina Mitchell and Linda Browne, who volunteered to coach the club. The twenty third through fifth grade girls trained for 10

weeks. They practiced twice a week for an hour after school. Each session started with an esteem building activity and a snack, followed by a run on the Hardy half mile track.

### **Kent Lake Elementary**

- Mrs. Randolph's class has been studying the Science unit, Pebbles, Sand, and Silt. As a culminating activity, the class created a Rock and Mineral Museum. Students spent two weeks collecting rock specimens locally, as well as from across the state (we even received rocks from England and several from Mexico!). The rocks were then sorted, identified (if possible), and displayed in the museum. Students learned to observe and describe their rocks according to size, shape, and color. They discovered that rocks can be found just about everywhere. Through the collection process, students developed a natural curiosity about the physical world. As a result, many are now passionate about rock collecting.
- Third graders got a first-hand look at food chains in class this week. After learning that owls "cast" the animal remains their bodies cannot digest in pellet form, students worked in pairs to dissect pellets to determine what their owl had eaten! They found various bones, fur, and feathers in their pellets. Then they compared the bones, especially the skulls, to a bone sorting chart that illustrated the different bone structures of common owl prey. By doing this, they were able to determine not only what their owl had eaten, but also how many it had eaten before producing the pellet. In this way, student pairs were able to determine their owl's diet, and thus, food chain.
- The students at Kent Lake were treated to Science Alive classroom presentations. Each forty-five minute presentation was grade appropriate and aligned with grade level content expectations. Students were introduced to a variety of live animals: parrots, turtles, snakes, chinchillas, etc. while exploring the fundamentals of animal classification, learning about the animal adaptations to changing environments, understanding how animals gain information about their environment and much, much more!
- Mrs. Breier's second graders have been studying history. As part of their culminating social studies activity, her students participated in an artifact museum. For this activity, students brought in items that have been in their families for many years. Each student was able to tell information about the item (how old it was, what it was used for, etc.) to visitors from other classrooms as well as parents and other faculty members. It was a great learning experience for all!
- On November 23, two third grade classrooms at Kent Lake took part in the Michigan Department of Community Health's "Count Your Smiles" Screening Survey. The purpose of "Count Your Smiles" is to gather information on the health needs of children in Michigan. Each child needed a returned signed positive consent form to participate a

1-2 minute oral health screening. A dental hygienist performed the oral health screening and results of the child's screening will be confidentially used to aid in determining health needs of children in Michigan.

### **Salem Elementary**

- Salem was thrilled to have the Kids Hope Mentor program begin. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year for the program and what a difference it has made to the students that participate! The selected students get one on one support from a Mentor and they work on reading, math or whatever may be needed, but most of all it supplies the students with a positive role model.
- The General Election for Student Council was held on November 4, 2009 resulting in a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and two deputy Secretaries being elected. We are looking forward to the new ideas that Salem's new cabinet will bring forward.
- Parent/Teacher conferences were held on November 10 and 12 with a high turnout. It was wonderful to see so much parent support and involvement.
- The kickoff for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Math-A-Thon to benefit St. Jude Children's Hospital was held on November 30, 2009. Student's collect donations based on how many math problems they will complete and then money is collected based on points per problem.
- Third Graders enjoyed a field trip to the Detroit Science Center on November 17, 2009.

### **Sayre Elementary**

- Sayre kindergarten students celebrated the fiftieth day of school with a 50's theme day in November. Students looked the part with girls in pony tails with scarves and boys with slicked back hair, practiced their counting skills by counting fifty cotton balls to cover a poodle, wrote about how they would look when they were fifty years old, and practiced a little sock hop. Learning can be very fun!
- All of the elementary schools in the district hosted parent teacher conferences in November. At Sayre, that resulted in the parents of 527 students discussing results with teachers, for a 98.6% attendance rate. We are so fortunate to have such support!
- Super Scientists at Work! Second graders at Sayre are investigating magnets. Students worked in teams to test their hypotheses about what items might block the force of magnetism when those items were held between a magnet and a paperclip. They then shared their results with the class and formed a conclusion.
- First graders at Sayre are exploring the properties of solids. They sorted items by color, size, shape, texture, and many other features. They learned that there are many ways we can describe objects!
- Third graders at Sayre created beautiful works of art as they used water colors to paint birch trees in autumn during art class. Students practiced painting techniques such as

wet into wet, wet into dry, and spattering. They also learned about creating perspective in a landscape by varying lengths of trees and adding shadows.

### **Centennial Middle School**

- Room 303 embarked on a "History and World Tour of Chocolate" experience at the Melting Pot restaurant in Novi. They learned how cacao beans are grown and processed, which kings saved all the chocolate for themselves, and the benefits of chocolate to our health. Of course there was also a chocolate fondue party, where proper fondue etiquette was put into practice.
- Mrs. Whitney's classes created Native American shields in art class. It was believed that these shields gave the maker strength or power to overcome fears. Students learned that Native Americans carried their shields with them, attached to their animals, lodges, or set them in places of honor.
- Six of our CMS students were accepted into the Michigan School Vocal Music Association State Honors Choir. The process begins with an audition with their school director to represent Centennial at Regional Honors Choir. At Regional's the students auditioned again for States. We are very proud of them and their hard work!
- National Junior Honors Society students worked toward their service hours by helping out at Parent/Teacher Conferences. They kept staff's energy up by offering soft drinks and snacks from a cart, working in shifts throughout the evening. Their help was much appreciated by teachers and staff.
- Seventh graders participated in a True Colors personality self-assessment. They used colors to identify characteristics that make up their personality. Understanding the blending of their colors gives them a better sense of who they are, why they do what they do and helps them appreciate people who are different from them. Through understanding themselves and others better it will help them make positive choices and experience greater success in life.

### **Millennium Middle School**

- Mrs. Gribble's fourth hour Spanish class participated in a "catered review." Students were divided into two groups and reviewed what they needed the most help with. Students pictured are Dylan Adams, Scott Brodesser, Morgan Hatton and Rachel Jankowiak.
- In Germany and Austria, St. Martin's Day is celebrated on November 11. Children go to houses with paper lanterns and candles, and sing songs in return for treats. Frau Huffman's German students celebrated by carrying homemade paper lanterns and singing "Lanterne" through the halls and stopping in the offices, where they were rewarded with candy.

- The winners of MMS' annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest were announced. In three categories the winners were Ms. Jones' class "Cat in the Hat" in the "Striving for Accuracy and Precision" category; Ms. Wright's class "Recycled Robot" in the "Creating, Imagining and Innovating" category; and Ms. Huffman's class "Swine Flew" in the "Finding Appropriate Humor" category.
- In Mr. Admiraal's and Mr. Lucas' geometry class, students worked in the computer lab. The 8th graders investigated triangle congruence conjectures.
- The Secondary Art Student Show was held November 9-20 at the Salem South Lyon District Library. Mrs. Robeson's and Mrs. Wright's students displayed their art work. The show was well attended with a steady flow of families supporting their artists.

### South Lyon East High School

- In Mrs. Lee and Mr. Garrity's geophysical science class, students experienced some real-world examples of Newton's Laws of Motion. Students completed twelve stations and were asked to identify which of Newton's laws was displayed. The students really enjoyed doing the experiments and were able to apply their knowledge of Newton's laws to what they were seeing. One example was having a tablecloth ripped out from underneath a set of dishes. If it is done correctly, the dishes remain in place as the tablecloth is removed. This is not magic, it's physics. Newton's First Law of Motion states that an object at rest remains at rest until acted on by an unbalanced force. If removed quickly, the unbalanced force of friction is too small to disturb the dishes and they remain in place. Another example is students used a R/C helicopter to display Newton's Third Law. Newton's Third Law states that for every action force there is an equal and opposite reaction force. The students' concluded that the helicopters rotors placed a downward force on the air, but what caused the helicopter to fly was the reaction force of the air pushing up on the rotor blades.
- The National Honor Society students held a "Sweats for Marines" drive. "Sweats for Marines" is a clothing drive intended to gather as many used and/or new sweatshirts and sweatpants to send to our Marines to help keep wounded soldiers warm during cold months ahead. Each pathway gathered as many sweats as possible in sixth hour classes, and the pathways with the most items won their sixth hours an ice cream party. The Design and Technology Pathway excelled with a total of 403 items collected, contributing to the almost half of the total amount, which was 891 items collected. The drive was great success and the NHS appreciates all who participated. Our Marines will stay warm this winter!
- The South Lyon East High School Department of Theatre presented William Shakespeare's romantic comedy about three couples' journey to the marriage altar, A Midsummer Night's Dream. Under the direction of South Lyon East Theatre Director,

Donna Kupper, students spent their summer preparing for the department's fall production with fencing and dance lessons. With a cast of 25 and a crew of 28, these talented high school students presented the Bard's words with ease and understanding on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>.

- South Lyon East introduced Metalsmithing jewelry into the art curriculum this year and the students have been really excited about the quality of work they have been producing in class. The students learn the basics of metal work which includes sawing, filing, soldering, casting, riveting and stone setting to create jewelry masterpieces. Mr. Smigell, South Lyon East Art teacher, has been really impressed with the enthusiasm that the students have brought to the program and expects the class to really take off in the future. It provides students with an opportunity to have school work become an authentic exercise that creates functional jewelry the students will be proud to wear.
- On November 9<sup>th</sup> -November 13<sup>th</sup> the National Honor Society held a spare change drive at South Lyon East to help fund Juvenile Diabetes research. NHS raised over \$300.00 for the foundation. Mrs. Briggs independent film students put together an informational video segment on juvenile diabetes to help promote the event.

### **South Lyon High School**

- The Board of the Michigan Science Teachers Association is proud to announce that R.J. Webber has been selected as the 2010 Science Administrator of the Year. As the winning administrator he was chosen for his dedication to and support of science education in your school district and your community, and for being an excellent role model for students and teachers. Awardees will be honored at an Awards Ceremony during a special luncheon at the 2010 MSTA Conference. The Awards will be held in the Banquet Room at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing, Michigan at 11:30 AM on Friday, March 5, 2010. We are proud to include R.J. Webber in the prestigious list of MSTA award winners and look forward to meeting with him. If your school or school district would like to honor him, you may make a donation to MSTA in his name. Simply go to <http://www.msta-mich.org/> and click on the Donate button in the upper right corner.
- On behalf of the SL High School Community, congratulations to Toni Simovski for earning the 2009 Michigan Council for the Social Studies Educator of the Year Award. Mr. Simovski has earned an impressive array of awards in his time at SLHS, including a 2005 SLHS Teacher of the Year award and 2007 Michigan Civic Educator of the Year. Toni has demonstrated the requisite skills needed to earn the award: developing and using instructional materials creatively, incorporating innovative instructional strategies, utilizing themes identified in Michigan Standards and Benchmarks, and evidence of professional involvement in activities such as workshops and MCSS association activities. Toni was also recognized by the MCSS for his ability to connect

lessons to everyday life. We are certainly proud of Toni and his many accomplishments. Congratulations Mr. Simovski!

- Congratulations to the South Lyon Robotics Club for winning the Judges Award on November 12, in the competition at Waterford Kettering High School. Students from SLHS include: Scott Carlson, Zack Clearwood, Karl Kalina, Spencer Skupinski, Branden Smyth, Sarah Trala, Marissa Wagner, and Kyle Ward. Their robot performed well with a score of 10 out of 17 tries, ranking them 4th overall in the county. This feat was only accomplished through the hard work, ingenuity, and dedication of its members. Their tremendous performance at the County Championship this past weekend at Holly High School also proved to be another impressive event. Not only did they win an award for the simplest solution, they also made it to the Semifinals. This was the best overall performance in the history of the Robotics club. Congratulations on an awesome season!
- The SLHS CI program hosted a Thanksgiving Celebration on Monday, November 23, 2009. Parents and families were invited to the celebration which consisted of student presentations and a mini Thanksgiving meal which was prepared by students. Students worked hard preparing poems, short stories and skits and performed these in the lecture hall for family members. At the feast, we sampled many traditional Thanksgiving foods along with sampling soups we will be selling as a fundraiser. Fun was had by all as we celebrated student talents and the holiday season.
- On Nov. 13-15, *All That Jazz* participated in the Butler University Vocal Jazz Fest. This invitational festival brings 130 students together to sing in a mass vocal jazz choir, under the direction of three clinicians. This year's clinicians were Dr. Kirby Shaw (composer and arranger of more than 2,500 published works), Dr. Patrice Madura (Indiana University music faculty), and Dr. Tim Brimmer (Butler University vocal jazz director & host).

On Saturday evening, the fire alarms went off and the hotel was evacuated at 11:30pm. Our SL students exited immediately, and decided to sing while they waited to return to their rooms. Dr. Shaw, the headlining clinician, came over and began jamming with our SL students. We sang a few of his songs with him, as seen in this cell phone picture.

*All That Jazz* is an extra-curricular ensemble comprised of singers from the SLHS and SLEHS choir programs.

- **MSVMA Regional Honors Choir** - Four members of the SLHS Choirs were selected to participate in the Michigan School Vocal Music Association Regional Honors Choir on Saturday, December 5. Laine Foster (sophomore), Bryce Goyt (senior), Amy Miner (senior), and Rob Monahan (senior), all members of Lyon Singers, were all selected to form a choir of 150 (of over 350 that auditioned). This is the second selection for Goyt & Monahan.