

SOUTH LYON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

GOOD NEWS

OCTOBER 2011



BARTLETT ELEMENTARY

- Bartlett second graders had the opportunity to interview South Lyon residents and ask why they thought our community was so great. Some of their comments were: 'The people are very friendly; great schools; it has a close knit feel; and great bike trails.' The students then took the information and made South Lyon posters representing our wonderful community.
- Our third grade geographers were busy at work! They had to create an eye appealing Michigan map that showed off all of our important landmarks and features. Some of the creative items they used were chocolate chips as mountains, gummy bears as the Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes, licorice laces as the rivers, and pictures for the cities! The maps were awesome! An A+ to all our hard working geographers!
- Bartlett students had the privilege of seeing *Leonardo and The Makin' Waves Band*. This was a high energy, interactive live music concert educating students on types of bullying and offering solutions utilizing song, rhythm, and movement. The message to the students was very effective and the music made everyone want to get up and dance!
- First Graders enjoyed a trip back in time when they visited Washburn School. In this one room schoolhouse, each first grade class experienced what it was like going to school in the olden days. The students also got to make lemonade, butter, and cornhusk dolls. They played marbles, duck, duck, goose, jump rope, and a good old game of kickball. It was a wonderful experience that tied into our Social Studies unit, *Learning About the Past*.
- On a fabulous fall day in October, the 5th grade students followed paths bordered by jack-o'-lanterns through Greenfield Village. One stop along the route was Thomas Edison's Menlo Park Complex which they learned about in their recent Electrical Circuit unit in science. Many students had trouble locating the Hermitage Slave Quarters. They kept walking by the quarters thinking the buildings were just for storage not for people living. Students were able to "see" history they have studied and will be studying during the 5th grade year.

BRUMMER ELEMENTARY

- Pride Week was schedule from October 3-7. This week is established to help all students to feel as though they are members of the Brummer Community. Fifth graders plan the events. This year they included: P.J. Day/Slippers Day, Look Alike Day, Crazy Hair Day, Favorite Team Day, and Electronics Day.
- On October 21, representatives from the Pistons presented an assembly that reminded students of the importance of persisting in school. Stories were shared about the experiences of one of the Pistons managers. The assembly ended with a basketball shoot off between members of the staff and students.

- On Wednesday, October 26, at 7 p.m., over twenty second and third grade students joined Dr. Brun in the library for their Rock 'N Read activity night. They brought tons of books to read and their "dancing shoes." We read for twenty minutes, then danced to "The YMCA," then read again for twenty minutes, followed by The Twist, and ended by reading another twenty minutes with The Handjive as our final dance.
- Our BNC sponsored a new activity on Friday, October 28th. It was our first Trunk 'N Treat evening family activity. Over 30 cars (families) decorated their trunks and distributed candy to the 300+ students who came to the event. From 6:30-7:30 p.m., costumed students and their parents visited each of the festive trunks!

DOLSEN ELEMENTARY

- In science we learned all about trees. We went for a tree walk to see trees around our school. We even had the opportunity to go to an apple orchard.
- In math we learned all about patterns. There are five types of patterns we explored: AB, AAB, AB,ABB, ABC. We used many different materials to make patterns of our own.
- In social studies we learned all about how to be safe. We read many books about how to be safe at school and at home. We even had the opportunity to watch the movie, *Officer Buckle and Gloria*.
- In reading we learned how to be readers. We talked about who reads, where do we read, what do we read, when do we read, and why do we read. To help us practice our reading we were assigned reading buddies. We met every week to read!
- In writing we learned how to write our letters. We also learned how to put letters together to make words like cat, bat, and dog. This helped us learn how to label our pictures in writing.

HARDY ELEMENTARY

- The Hardy PTO brought back "Dads and Donuts!" We had over 400 families attend the morning sessions. It was great seeing the kids share their school with their dad or another important male in their life.
- Mrs. Weiss and Mrs. Bell opened up the "Communication Café!" The Café is organized and run by students in Mrs. Weiss' Cognitively Impaired classroom. Each Friday the Café is open. The students work on academic, social and communication goals.
- Mrs. Jonckheere was recognized by WNIC (100.3 FM) as Just Baked's Teacher of the Week. A student in her class nominated her. Mrs. Jonckheere's class received cupcakes from Just Baked and also a visit from a radio personality.
- The Hardy Staff is working towards becoming a "Green School." Mr. Lloyd, 4th grade teacher, is leading the charge with this great initiative.

- The Hardy Lap-a-Thon was another great success. Ms. Brown and a host of parent volunteers did a fantastic job. The students raised money by getting pledges for laps. The weather was also very cooperative for us this year.

KENT LAKE ELEMENTARY

- Mrs. Laird, Physical Education teacher, and Mrs. Little, Restorative Practices Coordinator, teamed up with Mr. Beutel, High School Assistant Athletic Director, and three high school athletes to discuss sportsmanship with the Kent Lake 4th Grade classes. The high school students led discussions about the three components of sportsmanship with the 4th graders. Each high school student then shared personal stories about their experience with fairness, respect, and winning and losing with class. Mr. Beutel emphasized that the students at Kent Lake are like a family and needed to be treated as such. To end the discussion with a little bit of fun, the high school athletes played catch with the Kent Lake students.
- Both of Mrs. Shottroff's kindergarten classes earned a special day this month! Her classes earned a special day by managing impulsivity, striving for accuracy and taking responsible risks throughout the months of September and October. Each time Mrs. Shottroff noticed one of the habits of mind being used in her classroom, her class earned a BINGO chip. Once the class filled the BINGO chart – they earned a special day of their choice. The students not only learned to use the Habits of Mind, but also learned about majority rules and the process of voting.
- The Kent Lake Stelle Canto Choir sang the Canadian and American National Anthems at the Plymouth Whalers' hockey game on Saturday, October 29th. It was trick-or-treat night at Compuware Arena so the choir members dressed in their costumes for the evening. We had 243 Kent Lakers in attendance to watch them perform and it was a real "treat."
- In coordination with the school's "Be a Buddy, Not a Bully" theme, Kent Lake was on the hunt for a school wide definition of a "Buddy." Who better to ask than the kids! Mrs. Little coordinated a contest to encourage all children to turn in their definition of a "Buddy." After all the submissions were in, the judges made their decision. The winner is...Cara Younkin, a fifth grade student. Her definition, which has been adopted by Kent Lake, is "A buddy is a helpful, kind person that doesn't exclude people and is a friend to everyone. A buddy never makes a person feel left out or feel bad about himself/herself."
- Twix, Twizzlers, Snickers, Skittles, Jolly Ranchers...Kent Lake Elementary Student Council collected extra Halloween candy on Tuesday November 1st. With the help of Dr. Conforti and Gateway Dental Care, they shipped the wrapped candy to the organization Operation Gratitude. Operation Gratitude uses the candy to make care packages and sends them to the military troops overseas. The generous donations from children and their parents generated 400 pounds of candy.

SALEM ELEMENTARY

- Kindergartners have been exploring trees! They observed and compared the size, shape, texture and color of tree leaves in our school yard. Additionally, kindergartners have been growing as writers and are sharing their small moments through pictures, labels and sentences.
- Students in first grade recently had their first writing celebration where they shared their favorite writing piece with the whole class. Also, the first graders have become junior geologists as they explored the properties and uses of rocks in the Pebbles, Sand, and Silt science unit.
- The second graders were visited by a beekeeper in October as part of our business buddies program. The beekeeper told us what he does and shared some tools that he uses. This was part of our bee unit in science.
- It's not Santa's Workshop! It's Math Workshop! Third Grade students are loving this new format to teaching mathematics. They begin each workshop day with a short mini lesson and then move onto the "Must Do" activity. After that, it's time for stations. They rotate between 6 different stations in each two week cycle, including computers, teacher station, and a game station!
- Third graders love being "Big Buddies"! Each third grader is paired with a first grade buddy. Third grade and first grade students have had a blast getting to know each other along with doing some really fun partner activities. For example, graphing with skittles with a focus on correctly labeling all parts of a graph, reading short holiday based books where third graders are working with their little buddy to practice previewing, predicting, and other important reading strategies!
- Students in 4th grade created awareness posters regarding various pollutants in the environment. Students then presented their posters to a 4th grade audience.
- Mrs. Meagher's class created a student rating system for their classroom library. Students decided to create a system in which they would rate books from the classroom library on a four star system and add the rating to each book completed along with an explanation. The class thought this would be a great way to help each other find quality books to read.
- Fifth grade students recently completed their Electrical Circuits Science Unit. To wrap up the unit the students were visited by Mr. Bob Joslin, a master electrician who spoke to the class about real world electrical applications and safety.
- Students in grades 3 through 5 were introduced to a Mr. Igor MEAPovski (Mr. Metcalf in a silly costume) who supposedly is the creator of the MEAP and lives in the Porcupine Mountains. He came prior to the MEAP to promote using Habits of Mind and to relax students a bit before taking the assessment.
- First grade students that work with Mrs. Raines and Mrs. Jurado are working on being persistent when they are problem solving while reading.

- Mrs. Raines, Mrs. Peraino, and Mr. Metcalf hosted an informational meeting for Title One families. Resources to support writing at home were shared as well as Love and Logic materials.
- On October 21st Salem Families participated in their first Family Fun Night. The Ann Arbor Hands on Museum set up 20 different exhibits for families to explore. Also, there was trick-or-treating through the woods and a pumpkin patch for families in our Butterfly Garden. Nearly 480 people attended this event!

SAYRE ELEMENTARY

- First grade writers at Sayre studied ABC books and wrote their own versions. We also noticed the differences between list and story books. Students are now inspired to write their own list or story books. Writing energy is high in first grade!
- Sayre Second Graders went to the Henry Ford Museum to learn about history in October! They explored the Rosa Parks bus, the history of aviation, and got to see some famous automobiles and trains. Everyone had a great time! This field trip supports the district social studies curriculum. Second graders have also been working extremely hard on writing personal narrative stories. Using Cynthia Rylant's book When I Was Young in the Mountains as inspiration, they have been creating stories, editing, revising, and even publishing their works.
- Mrs. Karrick's 3rd graders observed the life cycle of the Wisconsin Fast Plant as they watched the stages of their own plants progress in the classroom. The students were eager to break open the seed pods and discover the seeds inside. The students took the seeds home and were encouraged to plant the seeds with their parents. Our hope is that the seeds will produce other plants, and that they can observe the new life cycle with their family.
- During the month of October all Sayre's eighty-five Kindergarten students worked on singing and spelling their color songs in music class. Red, Blue, Orange, Black and Green! They did a great job of recognizing and writing quarter notes and quarter rests in different patterns.
- Sayre fourth graders celebrated the Halloween holiday by participating in pumpkin math. Students estimated the weight, height and circumference of their pumpkins and guessed how many seeds were inside. Then, using measurement tools, they found the actual dimensions of their pumpkins and measured their weights by holding them, stepping on a bathroom scale, and subtracting their own weights from the total to solve for the weight of the pumpkin. Students then piled seeds in groups of ten as a strategy for counting hundreds of pumpkin seeds and then counted by tens to find the total! They had a blast!
- The fifth graders at Sayre just completed their first round of book reports. Students had a choice of genres to choose from. Each genre had a creative way to display the knowledge from books read. The students that read biographies dressed up as their

subject and did their presentations as their main character. Students really enjoyed sharing their book reports with their classmates!

- The students in Mrs. Taylor's and Mrs. VanAsselt's 4th grade Language Group compared and contrasted apples and pineapples, using their senses to generate an extensive list of characteristics. The students completed Venn diagrams and then used the information to write a compare and contrast paper.
- Sayre students in grades K-5 worked on the Instep Kick for soccer in PE class. The Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students focused on kicking a stationary ball by taking a large step, or stride before kicking; students in grades 3, 4 and 5 focused on leaping before kicking either a stationary or rolling ball.

CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Centennial Middle School students and staff browsed the displays and purchased items from the annual CMS Fall Book Fair. Many new titles as well as old favorites were available for purchase. In doing so, Centennial was able to add a nice mix of new titles to the school collection in the Media Center. The book fairs provide continued support and the promotion of literacy for students.
- Performing Arts students Mikayla Monk and Austin Waldrop delivered the morning news to CMS students and staff over the PA system. Following prompt cards and using tools learned in Performing Arts Class they began the morning announcements, finishing with The Pledge of Allegiance. Students rotated bi-weekly for morning and afternoon live broadcasts.
- The CMS Symphonic Band proudly marched in South Lyon's Annual Pumpkinfest Parade on October 1st. The CMS students combined with the Millennium Symphonic Band students for their first marching experience. The day was cold and windy, but it did not stop the parade from being a huge success!
- The South Lyon Band programs joined forces on October 7th for the annual Middle School Night at the South Lyon vs. South Lyon East Football Game. The marching bands from South Lyon High School and South Lyon East High School were joined by the Symphonic Bands from Millennium Middle School and Centennial Middle School. The combined bands performed as one for pre-game and in the stands for the first half of the game.
- A mathathon fundraiser was held to raise money for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Sixth and Eighth grade students, with the help of one seventh grade class collected over \$2,500 for donation. Pledges were made by family and friends for students who earned them by completing math problems. The donations will help children at St. Jude receive cancer treatments.

MILLENNIUM MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Parent Teacher Conferences were held on Monday, October 24, 2011 from 3-9:00 p.m.
- The MMS Student Council sponsored an all school "Pink Out" day on October 26th. Staff and students made \$1 donations to dress in pink on this day. Donations went to the Susan G. Komen Foundation for Breast Cancer Awareness. It appeared that the entire school was swathed in pink that day! Over \$2,000 was donated to the foundation.
- In recognition of National Career Development Month, students at Millennium wrote poems and created posters for the National Career Development Association 46th Annual Poster and Poetry Contest. This year's theme was "My Career Dreams." Winning students from Millennium had the opportunity to qualify at the district, state, and national contest levels. This was one way our students celebrated National Career Development Month!
- Students in Mr. Levitan's 8th grade Technology class had the assignment to build a balsa wood bridge using only 45 feet of 1/8' x 1/8" balsa wood sticks and under the limitations of being 12" long, 3 1/4" wide and 6" tall maximums. Two students, Zach Satawa and Kevin Richards, built a bridge that held 106 pounds of weight before failing. The bridge only weighed 53 grams. The previous record for the Bridge Breaking Competition was 82 pounds. Good job guys!
- The MMS Media Center held a spooktacular book fair in October. Volunteer parents decorated for Halloween and sold books during the last week of October. All proceeds from the fair are used to purchase more books for the Media Center.

SOUTH LYON HIGH SCHOOL

- The South Lyon Marching band competed at the Troy Athens Invitational, placing 1st in Flight II with a score of 70.96. SLHS also received the award for Best General Effect. The Flight II competition included Wyandotte Roosevelt (4th-65.06), Farmington (3rd-68.41), and Southgate Anderson (2nd-70.52). This marks the first victory at a competition in over four years for the SLHS Marching Band! Future competitions include Clarkston on Lakeland on and the Michigan Competing Band Association on November 5th at Ford Field in Downtown Detroit.
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- South Lyon High School Junior, Dominik Belavy has been awarded the Rackham Symphony Choir High School Vocal Internship. He will perform as a member of Rackham Symphony Choir for the entire 2011-12 season which culminates in a showcase

performance featuring Dominik and fellow interns from Rochester Adams and Shrine Catholic High School.

- Students in Sculpture class created Marisol Box Sculpture based off the artist Marisol Escobar. She is a Venezuelan, and was raised in Paris. She learned creating figures by incorporating assemblage parts of salvaged materials. Students looked at examples and choose modern day figures. There are group photos of students and their sculptures.
- The National Honor Society held its annual induction ceremony on the evening of October 5, 2011. This organization recognizes students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. NHS officers Brianna Wiater, Dallas Linville, Chase Reames, Jessica Allain and Caitlin Millis, along with co-advisors Laura Yenglin and Brenda McCloskey were pleased to induct forty-seven new members. Students, parents and administrators enjoyed a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem by Lyon Singers, Karoline Kinjorski, Liz Smith, Kalli Allen and Vicki Taylor. Guest speaker Mark Will from Dale Carnegie Training provided plenty of motivation with his "can do" theme. A dessert reception was held after the induction.

SOUTH LYON EAST HIGH SCHOOL

- South Lyon East High School is proud to announce that Coach John Burch has been selected as the Zone I Swim Coach of the Year for the 2010 Girls Swimming and Diving season by the Michigan Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association (MISCA). We are very proud of the dedication and hard work put forth during this season by Coach Burch. Congratulations Coach Burch!
- Congratulations to the South Lyon East's boys tennis team! 22 teams qualified for the State Finals in Grand Blanc and Holly on October 13 and 14th, and East took eighth place with points. The players that represented the team at the State Tournament were: Kevin Renehan, Tudor Bahmata, Brooks Emke, Andrew Stanny, David Dennison, Jared Slawski, Nick Charney, Alex Fraz, Christian Coral, Kyle Meyer, Bobby Brothers and Nick Caudill. Way to go Cougars!!!
- A big Cougar Congratulations goes to Kevin Renehan. Kevin captured the championship crown at the State Tennis Tournament. He was the No. 2 seed in the tournament, winning all four of his matches. Coach Admiraal stated: "Kevin's hard work, his strong will to win, and his motivation to constantly improve his game and willingness to make adjustments really paid off", as Kevin won the State Title and captured the championship crown. Congratulations to Kevin!!!
- Congratulations to SLEHS journalism student Anna Marie King. Her review of the film "War Horse" was chosen to be included in the ASNE/HSJ National Edition. The National Edition selects articles by students all over the country to be featured together in one online newspaper each week. To read Anna Marie's article, go here:
<http://my.hsj.org/Schools/Newspaper/tabid/100/view/frontpage/schoolid/3877/art>

icleid/462727/newspaperid/4056/Preview_On_War_Horse.aspx and check out the work of our other talented journalism students at my.hsj.org/slehs

- This fall, The South Lyon EAST High School Department of Theatre will present "Singin' in the Rain." It promises to be another great hit! Tickets go on Sale October 24th.
- The South Lyon East Choirs and Band have had a busy Fall. The Cougar Chorale, Women's Chorale and Jazz Choir held their Fall Concert on October 20 in the SLEHS Auditorium. Fifty-three choir students raised their voices in song as they performed a variety of pieces. In addition, two of our Choir students are headed to Regional Honors Choir in December. Congratulations to Alyssa Impullitti (11th) and Jacqueline Rogge (10th) on this accomplishment!
- The South Lyon East Cougar Marching Band has been performing their "Pirates of the Caribbean" field show for all our home football games. In addition they attended the MSBOA Marching Band Festival and received a rating of 2 (Good). They also took their show, for the first time, to an MCBA Marching Competition show and performed in exhibition. As an exhibition band, they performed for judges' comments and a non-posted score. Their score was based on music, marching, and visual affect and was comparable to other bands in their Flight. The Cougar Band is hoping to become a member of the Michigan Competitive Band Association in the future and will continue to perform exhibitions like this as they gain expertise and experience in this venue.
- Congratulations to our Robotics team, The Flying Toasters, who won the Technical Excellence Award at the Oakland County Competitive Tournament. Our team was recognized for having the best robot design and how efficiently our students operated it.
- On October 19 the South Lyon East High School National Honor Society held its annual induction ceremony welcoming forty-one new members. Keynote speaker, Dr. William Pearson, spoke to the new members and their families about the qualities that make up the members of National Honor Society. Dr. Pearson injected a fifth quality - enthusiasm, reminding students not to be trapped by routine and habits that take the spark out of life; that enthusiastic people are the ones who will shape the future. Conducting the installation of new officers was National Honor Society Advisor Gail Joslin. Newly installed President Bruna Morais then led the induction of new members. Principal Larry Jackson and Dr. Pearson congratulated each new member with a membership card and pin. Concluding the ceremony President Morais led the members in the NHS Pledge with a candle ceremony. Special guest Assistant Superintendent Melissa Baker was also in attendance to congratulate our students. Following the ceremony members and guests adjourned to the multipurpose room for refreshments and to pick up their certificates. Congratulations to these hard working, dedicated students.
- During our Stomata Project Lab, we are expecting students to demonstrate several skills. First, all students are expected to effectively demonstrate how to properly use a compound light microscope. Students will make slides to view under low and high

power using the proper adjustments to focus the objects being viewed. Next, all students are exploring the proper components of experimental design. Students working individually and in pairs will design a question and conduct an experiment dealing with the stomata located on leaves. Stomata are actually gaps between a pair of guard cells which allow for gas exchange between the surrounding air and the photosynthetic cells inside the leaf. Stomata are the major place where water and oxygen leave the plant and carbon dioxide enters the plant. In the end, students will prepare and present a PowerPoint Presentation to their classmates. The skills demonstrated in this project follow the structure that all scientists abide by in their investigations.

- On Sunday, October 23, before a capacity crowd of 500, 172 students received their Academic Letter. The guest speaker for the event was Dr. Susan Martin, President of Eastern Michigan University. This was the 5th Annual Academic Letter program for South Lyon East, which was begun 19 years ago at South Lyon High School.
- Congratulations to our debate team who on October 22/23 competed at the Dexter Legislative Debate tournament. Varsity Debaters Cooper Wagner and Patrick Humfleet were finalists in the tournaments highly competitive Super Session. Way to Debate, Cougars!!