

SOUTH LYON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

GOOD NEWS

OCTOBER 2009



Bartlett Elementary

- Fourth graders learned how making inferences makes us better readers. The phrase, "Prove it!" was used in class to remind us to go back to the text and support our answer. We explored comic strips and learned that the author won't give you all the information, but will provide enough clues for you to figure it out and have a good laugh.
- This past summer Bartlett had about 100 students participate in the Super Summer Success Reading program. At the end of the 2008-2009 school year, students selected anywhere from six to fifteen books to take home for the summer. Then at the beginning of this school year, the books were returned to Bartlett. Most of the students reported that they really enjoyed the books and the parents reported that they were thankful that their children had an opportunity to participate in the program. On October 23, 2009, the students had a celebration and received congratulations and an award certificate. *Way to go Bartlett Readers!!!!*
- Mrs. Aills' 1st graders made a leaf picture with their 4th grade reading buddy from Mrs. Allor's class. Each class read a book called Look What I Did with a Leaf. It described how to make pictures of animals out of leaves. They talked about leaf colors, shapes, and sizes. Then students in both classes collected leaves with as many different colors, shapes and sizes as possible. The kids and their buddies really had fun making their leaf pictures.
- 5th grade Magnet kids worked hard on the math unit *Variables and Patterns*. They learned to take data and communicate it on a coordinate graph using independent and dependent variables. They also learned to convert that data to table and equation form. On an imaginary bike ride across the east coast they interpreted data to determine real world variables in a way that lets the data tell the story.
- The students in grades 3-5 took the MEAP test in October. They all worked really hard!

Brummer Elementary

- Coach Aaron, from the Detroit Pistons, was a welcomed sight around Brummer School in the fall. On Monday, October 26th, he joined the Brummer students in the gym for a school motivated assembly. The Detroit Pistons', *Homework Before Hoops Program* is an interactive assembly designed to help teach life skills and provide a positive message for young students across the state of Michigan. Coach Aaron helped remind us of the importance of school and persisting at each endeavor we try!
- The Brummer monthly Birthday Celebration was held on Wednesday, October 28th, at lunchtime in the cafeteria. Students who had birthdays in October were sent invitations to join the Birthday Table at lunchtime and make an ice cream sundae – how delicious!

- Each third, fourth and fifth grader at Brummer demonstrated their skills at persisting, by working diligently on the Michigan MEAP tests! Congratulations to our students for a job well done.
- The Brummer Family Fall Fest was held on Friday, October 30th. This “ghostly” event involved games, a dunk tank, face painting, tattoos, and more! A fun time was had by all! Special thanks to parents, Lynn Lach and Michele Tippy for their great organization skills and dedication to children having a fun night with their families.
- A new Parent Resource Room will be opening at Brummer on November 10th! In the room will be parenting books, resources to use when reading with your child, and up-to-date handouts from the Brummer Neighborhood Council. The resource room will be open from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. everyday. Please come and join us!

Dolsen Elementary

- The kindergarten students have been excited about writing. They loved writing in their journals, drawing detailed pictures and labeling them to tell a story.
- First grade love writer’s workshop. They are stretching out words and creating stories they are proud of. They are looking forward to an Author’s Celebration in November.
- The fourth graders created their own seed journals. The students used apple stamps and markers for seeds. They carry them everywhere and truly enjoy writing time.
- Our resource room students made great progress as they learned new strategies to use in the classroom.
- Our reading support students enjoyed reading all the books they learned to read at home.
- We enjoyed several High School Football players that came to read to our students. They truly were heroes as they read to us, ate lunch with us and played at recess.
- We planted tulip bulbs in the Dolsen school yard this month. All 350 students were able to plant a bulb. We look forward to a full rainbow of color this spring.

Hardy Elementary

- Fifth grade students raised money and participated in the Lap-a-thon fundraiser to help fund their camp experience to the Outdoor Education Center in April.
- Fifth grade safety team students helped to keep Hardy safe by monitoring the halls in the morning and walking students to their buses each afternoon.
- A business buddy from DTE came in to talk to the Hardy students about electricity! Students learned how electricity was made and what to do in the case of an electrical emergency.

- Students created businesses where they made and sold items and services using fifth grade community currency. Our fifth grade community was strengthened through supporting each other in our business endeavors. We opened our businesses to many Hardy classrooms as well as parents, grandparents, and family friends during the first Market Day!
- Fifth graders did their very best and demonstrated persistence as they took the Reading, Mathematics, and Science MEAP tests.

Kent Lake Elementary

- The Kindergarten classes from Kent Lake visited the Plymouth Orchards in Plymouth, MI this month. The children were able to pick a pumpkin from the pumpkin patch, pick an apple and have donuts and cider. This wasn't only a fun field trip for the kids, they also learned so much! The children saw cider being made which touched on turning a solid into a liquid, which is covered in our Properties unit in Science. Also, they were taught about the Apple tree through the seasons and the different parts of the apple tree, which is also covered in our science curriculum.
- First Graders at Kent Lake become Geologists!! As part of South Lyon District Curriculum, First Graders studied pebbles, sand, and silt. They utilized different size screens to separate the sand, pebbles, and gravel. The children then had to decide how to label each set of rocks. The children worked in groups and learned team building skills. In addition, they learned about the safety aspect of being a scientist. We focused on organizing materials and managing our impulsivity in order to keep our science experiments safe for all students.
- On October 8th, Mrs. Dancer held her first Summer Packet Luncheon. All of the children that completed the lengthy, academic summer packet were invited to lunch. The children were allowed to bring an electronic gaming device to the luncheon. The luncheons continued monthly throughout the year! Congratulations to all of the students that spent many hours during their summer to complete the packet!

Salem Elementary

- The Salem safety patrol program is up and running! In order to become a safety, the students completed an application explaining why they should be chosen and how they would demonstrate the Habits of Mind and take on a leadership role for the school. Currently, there are approximately 55 4th and 5th grade students who are part of the program!
- Salem students thoroughly enjoyed the motivating assembly that was performed by the *Sons of Thunder* on October 8! Staff and students were impressed with the "Persistence" message that was *strongly* demonstrated throughout the assembly!

- Ghouls and Goblins were haunting the halls of Salem during the Annual Halloween Parade! Fun was had by all during the Halloween Parties.
- The 1st Annual Monster Math Night was held on October 29. Families engaged in a series of fun math games throughout the evening. Two lucky students won a lunch with Mr. Brickey for completing all of the activities!
- As the local area prepared for a School Board election, Salem Elementary students participated in Student Council Primary Election on October 23. The General Election for Student Council will be held on November 4, 2009.

Sayre Elementary

- Sayre 4th graders took a field trip to Kensington Nature Center. Students participated in an interactive activity to better understand how pollutants could accumulate in an ecosystem. Students also used their Habit of Mind “Gathering Data by Using all of the Senses” when they experienced a wetland and forest ecosystem. These activities related very closely to their fourth grade ecosystems unit.
- Sayre kindergarten students visited Plymouth Orchards. Sayre Kindergarten students are learning about trees. At Plymouth Orchards, we learned how “Katie Applebud” became an apple! We learned how important bees are to the apple orchard. We picked an apple from the tree and a pumpkin from the pumpkin patch. We enjoyed cider and donuts at the end of our field trip!
- Teachers from Sayre participated in a school fundraiser by working an evening shift at the South Lyon Dairy Queen. Even though it was a cold and wet fall evening, the Sayre community came out to enjoy the fun and treats, and to support our goal of raising enough money to purchase a document camera for every classroom!
- Sayre 3rd graders headed to the U of M Matthaei Botanical Gardens to extend their science unit on plants. Students learned firsthand about parts of plants and how they survive in their habitats. They had the opportunity to learn outdoors about native Michigan plants as well as indoors in the conservatory about plants from around the world!
- On October 12, the Sayre “Explorers” in Ms. Truesdell’s 2nd grade class made models of one of Columbus’s ships to practice their persistence and flexible thinking skills. They were proud to launch their ships in the classroom and see if they would really float! Their 1st grade classmates learned about Columbus’s voyages through a variety of literacy activities.

Centennial Middle School

- During lunch, eighth grade students helped out with a sixth grade communications exercise. Sixth graders were seated at tables by the color of candy wrapper that was handed to them as they entered the cafeteria creating a mix of students who did not

know each other at each table. When all were seated they became acquainted by exchanging names, where they were born and what activities they enjoy after school. After everyone had a turn to speak they were all able to enjoy their candy. It was a fun way for students to learn introduction and communication skills.

- CMS sixth grade health students fueled up for a terrific day at the Health Breakfast “in school” field trip. Discussion took place beforehand on how to start the day off with a good nutritious breakfast. Students learned that their bodies work better when they eat proper foods at the correct times. Everyone enjoyed the delicious breakfast that was served by our kitchen staff.
- Congratulations to the Symphonic band for their outstanding performances at the South Lyon East football game and the Pumpkinfest parade. Band members braved adverse weather conditions and enthusiastically entertained the community. The Charger spirit flowed from each musician. We are proud of the way they represent our school!
- The entire CMS student body attended a Habits of Mind assembly. "Sons of Thunder" entertained while sending a message to students to stay on track and make good choices. Their lively demonstrations showed what you do now can impact your future.
- Eighth grade students participated in a Math-a-thon for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. They raised money by having sponsors pledge toward their participation in completing math problems. All money raised went directly to the hospital to help children in need of cancer treatments. This is a first year project for CMS with hopes of including other grade levels in the future.

Millennium Middle School

- October 2, Symphonic band students rehearsed all afternoon with CMS, SLEHS and SLHS bands preparing for their "Band Night" performance. The middle school bands performed "Splish Splash" during the pregame show. Then they performed the "Star Spangled Banner" and school fight songs with the high school bands during halftime. The next day, MMS and CMS symphonic bands performed in the South Lyon Pumpkinfest Parade. Despite the rain and cold, the students performed wonderfully.
- Mr. Costa's 8th grade science classes studied the layers of the atmosphere. Students were busy measuring the density of air.
- Substance Abuse Posters, Public Service Announcements promoting safety, and Risk and Prevention posters were created by 7th grade health classes.
- 6th grade health classes learned about the Health Triangle, Nutrients and Nutrition Facts. Students learned about food labels and how to access the information they provide.
- Mrs. McKenzie's and Mrs. Santeiu's science classes went outside to collect shadow data. Each class recorded the length and angle of shadows cast by a shadow stick at different

times during the day. The students then analyzed the data collected each hour to track the apparent motion of the sun across the sky.

South Lyon East High School

- On October 7, 2009, National Honor Society held an induction ceremony for new members, hosted by advisors and officers who led the ceremony. Chase Badish, from the SLE Choir sang the National Anthem and Mr. Ehlert, member of the Board of Education was the keynote speaker. Leah Creech, Kate Grunewald, Beth Nykamp, Brooke Dexter, Jenna Bedich and James Smith, as officers were able to welcome new members and illustrate the four qualities of NHS members: scholarship, leadership, character, and service. Leah Creech, president of NHS, opened the ceremony with Mrs. Athey and Ms. Jaracha, NHS advisors, and welcomed new members to the stage to become officially recognized as part of NHS. The academic achievements and the obligation to help the community were points highlighted and all members of NHS were proud to welcome and honor new inductees.
- South Lyon East's 2009 Homecoming, Under the Sea, was a big hit among the students and staff, from the spirit days, pep assembly and the Taste of South Lyon East picnic before the football game. With the incentive of winning an iPod, free student parking for the next school year and various other prizes there was an outstanding amount of participation in the spirit days. The week was filled with spirit dress up days with students dressed as twins, an Under the Sea Day, Wacky Wednesday, class color day and finally on Friday, Black and Silver day. The students enjoyed dressing up and everyone who participated got a ticket for the major drawings at the assembly. The week was packed full of fun festivities. The goal of the week was about East Spirit! Classes got together to build and design floats, students cheered for all of our fall sports participants and black and silver was the ticket for the assembly! Our pep assembly, with an entertaining pie-eating contest, and activities like the half court shot, was the best one yet. The Taste of South Lyon East indoor picnic was absolutely fabulous. Families purchased ten tickets for \$7.00 to obtain food from different vendors from the community. Our participants were: Leo's Coney Island, served Coney dogs and Greek salad; Aleko's , provided mostaccioli and breadsticks; Tangle Wood Golf Course served ribs and dessert; and La Case Del Rio Grande provided chicken burritos, nacho's and chicken enchiladas. Everyone seemed to enjoy this event!
- The Homecoming Dance was totally amazing this year! Over 500 students enjoyed the dance, the atmosphere of Under the Sea and of course the excellent DJ that kept them dancing till the light went on! The smiles on the faces of the students said it all! The whole week was so much fun. After Homecoming week, the student council held a pot luck for the teachers, parents, and volunteer in Homecoming, where we asked them what their opinion was on the last week. We were given a lot of positive feedback and new ideas to improve on Winterfest, and more dances to come.

- The Cougar boys cross country team enjoyed its first KLAA wins this season over Livonia Stevenson and Salem, finishing 4th in the central division standings. The boys also enjoyed a second place finish in the 9th/10th grade division of the Petoskey invitational and a second place finish in the Division II race at the Centerline Schoensee Invitational. Spencer Layson was the first Cougar ever to break the 17 minute barrier when he ran 16:53 at the Huron River Rat Invitational. In this same invitational, three other Cougar boys ran below 18 minutes, a first for the young program.
- On Sunday, October 25, 2009, 121 students were recognized at the third annual Academic Letter Awards Dinner. Family members, district administrators and members of the Board of Education were in attendance for this event. The South Lyon Community Schools Food Service Department prepared a wonderful dinner for all the guests. The keynote speaker this year was Rich Luterman, Fox 2 Weatherman, who gave an inspiring speech to the students. Academic Letter recipients received their first year letter, or a second/third year pin. South Lyon Community School staff, who had been invited by students, were also presented with a gift on behalf of the student and South Lyon East High School!

South Lyon High School

- Once again, the talented students of South Lyon Community Schools exhibited some of their fine work at the Great Lakes Art Fair at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi. The event was held from October 16 - 19th. The work was submitted by Trish Adams (SLHS), Lisa Dunn (SLHS) and Amber Wright (Elementary and Middle schools). This was an amazing opportunity for students to showcase their work as they were exhibited among professional artists from the Great Lakes Area; and the foot traffic was enormous. They received many comments on how much the hard work of the students was appreciated. The show-goers were impressed with their efforts. The Rock Financial Showplace is planning another event in the spring of 2010; and we plan to submit work by our students then, as well.
- Junior, Morgan Beane, was selected by Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Muskegon as one of 30 girls out of 260 to apprentice dance studios across Europe. She will also be performing at many of her destinations. All of the girls will spend six weeks in June & July touring Europe and staying in each location for four days. Beginning in April, Morgan will be traveling to Blue Lake in Muskegon for special rehearsals. Some will last for a day, while others the entire weekend. On June 11th, she leaves for Blue Lake for a week of rehearsals; and then on June 17th, she will leave for Europe to begin her adventure. Morgan has worked very hard at dancing, while also working part time and putting in a lot of effort to keep up with her demanding school schedule. Good luck Morgan; we are very proud of you.
- Fun was had by all at the Homecoming pep assembly this year and many thanks are in order. Teachers Nancy Simpson, Jill Blasy, Vasili Tsavalias, Christine Haack and Monica

Zuzow did an amazing job in helping to orchestrate an awesome assembly. This year's theme was "Rainforest Rendezvous." The whole week was infused with Spirit! Classes got together to build and design floats, students cheered for all of our fall sports participants, and blue and gold ran havoc at our assembly. The whole week was a time of celebration and fun for everyone. In spite of the rain, the parade was amazing with lots of community members coming out to support our district and our students. This was truly a community event, regardless of your age! Thanks to all the parents who gave of their time and the use of their homes to make this event such a great success.

- This fall we honored 290 students and their families at an Academic Awards Dinner. These students received a certificate and Academic Letter for the prestigious South Lyon Varsity jacket. Students who previously qualified for the varsity letter earned an academic pin that they can attach to their academic letter. In order to qualify, students must have maintained a 3.5 or higher grade point average for both semesters of the previous academic year, and be enrolled in a minimum of six classes. The Academic Awards Dinner is founded on the belief that the promotion of student's academic excellence provides incentives that may be beneficial in getting students to achieve better grades and greater educational growth. Our school culture encourages academic achievement; and this program offers public recognition of our highest achieving students. Keynote speakers this year were AP economics teacher, Eric Davis, and North American car and crossover planning manager, Amy Marentic. Both shared with our students the principles of giving back to your community, making a difference, and pursuing your goals and dreams with passion.
- SLHS Library Media Center received a "Picturing America" grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This grant provides 40 large, high-quality color reproductions of selected American masterpieces. There is a comprehensive teacher's resource book providing a wide range of ideas to support educators using the works of art in core subject areas. The posters have been distributed around our school. Look for them the next time you visit!
- SLHS Senior Ryan Beaber has been selected as the Channel 7 Scholar athlete of the week. Ryan will be filming the segment this week with Don Shane to air this Sunday after the sports segment on the 11:00 pm news.
- The National Honor Society held its annual induction ceremony on October 14, 2009. Co-advisers, Laura Yenglin and Brenda McCloskey, were delighted to welcome thirty-three new members to the organization. Keynote speaker Dr. Daniel Turner, a pediatric cardiologist at Children's Hospital, inspired the audience with quotes from leaders that illustrated scholarship, leadership, service and character, which are the four pillars of the National Honor Society. Principal, R.J. Webber, and Superintendent, Dr. William Pearson, were on hand to give each inductee their membership card and pin. Other special guests in attendance at the ceremony included Assistant Superintendents Dr. Jean Schmeichel and Melissa Meister, assistant principal Lisa DeVecchio, and SLHS

teacher, Nancy Hearn. Concluding the formal ceremony was the candlelight pledge conducted by NHS president, Heather Hester. After the ceremony everyone gathered in the commons for refreshments. South Lyon is fortunate to have so many students among its best and brightest!

- On Thursday, October 22nd, South Lyon High School senior students participated in the Senior Symposium. Students had the opportunity to rotate between three break-out sessions including Paying for College, College 101 and The Reality Store. All of the sessions were meant to inform the students, but the Reality Store really hit home for many of the students.
- As the students entered the Reality Store, they were given a budget worksheet that included an occupation with or without health benefits, a monthly salary, and a life scenario (marital status, number of children, and if a spouse was employed). Once inside, students visited 12 different booths to budget life expenses including housing, food, savings, utilities, transportation, child care, insurance, clothing, personal care, travel/entertainment. At the reality check and medical/dental booth, students selected a number and were given good news (you won the lottery!) or bad news (your dog bit the neighbor, pay \$250). Students became very creative managing their budgets such as cutting back on personal expenses or teaming with another student to share housing. Many students visited the bank to inquire about loans or ask for financial advice. Overall, the students enjoyed the activity and have a little better idea of how much it will cost to live in the real world. The Reality Store would not have been possible without the incredible assistance of more than 20 parent volunteers. Parents helped students with their budgets, answered questions, directed students and offered great life advice. Many of the parents have underclassman and said they would love to come back. They were also impressed with the students and their positive attitudes.
- In the fall of 2009, South Lyon High Kiddy Korner spread spooky hallway and classroom smiles, as 3 to 5 year olds trick-or-treated through the halls. Many teachers, along with high school students dressed up for this special occasion. Teachers were asked to participate in their classrooms by donating treats. We received so many e-mails wanting to see the children that we had to divide the hallways into two days. Fun was had by all as an array of princesses, cartoon hero's, witches and animals filled the hallways of South Lyon High.
- German teachers Freda DiVitto and Sara Faitel took their students to discover the magic of Europe on an educational tour over the summer break. Twenty-nine travelers participated in the eleven-day tour which included stops in Munich, Germany; Salzburg, Austria; and Budapest, Hungary. Students stepped out of the classroom and into the global arena where they experienced first-hand the culture, the people, and the languages of other countries. Some highlights of the tour included a guided bike tour of Munich and shopping in the Marienplatz, once the intersection of medieval trade routes in Europe. The group also visited Dachau, a WWII Nazi concentration camp built in

1935 and liberated by the Allies in 1945. From Munich the group traveled to Austria and toured Salzburg and Vienna. In Salzburg the students dressed in traditional miner's garb and were transported on an exciting journey into the depths of the salt mines. After the salt mines, the group dined in a centuries-old restaurant for an evening of song and cuisine while watching performers sing excerpts from *The Sound of Music*. The tour ended in Budapest, Hungary a former soviet occupied country. The students enjoyed a half-day boat excursion on the Danube, where Roman forts and baroques palaces sit along the banks of the river. This trip was the 5th of its kind through the German program at South Lyon. The next trip is tentatively being planned for the summer of 2011.