

SOUTH LYON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

GOOD NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2009



### **Bartlett Elementary**

- Fifth grade scientists had a shockingly good time learning about electricity and magnetism. Students built circuits, worked on troubleshooting problems, investigated conductors and insulators and made switches. As a culminating activity, groups designed their own flashlights.
- The third graders enjoyed their Animal Study unit in Science. The students were responsible for caring for Dwarf African Frogs, Fiddler Crabs, and Millipedes. The third graders created lifelike habitats for the animals and learned about the importance of the basic life needs for each animal. They had a blast!
- Bartlett students participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Walk-a-Thon! During P.E. time students ran laps around the gym. They enjoyed running for two good causes – great physical fitness and raising money for their school!
- Fourth grade student enjoyed the Land and Water models in the Science Lab. Students created and explored the different stages of the Water Cycle!
- The Special Education Department at Bartlett along with the Title One teachers and Mrs. Thompson's class participated in a Writing Collaboration Project during the 2009-2010 school year.
- Who doesn't love to wear a new hat? Mrs. Greer's third/fourth grade class had fun trying on the imaginary hats of a geographer, historian, government and political scientist, and economist as they learned what questions each professional asks as they do their job and how those questions will help them learn all about the United States.

### **Brummer Elementary**

- We would like to welcome Ms. Lindsey Stodart to our teaching staff. She is our new second/third grade teacher. Last year, Ms. Stodart taught Kindergarten, part-time, at Salem. Welcome to Brummer Ms. Stodart.
- Our two Open Houses/Curriculum Nights were a huge success. Parents from kindergarten to second grade visited the school on Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> and the parents from third to fifth grade visited on Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Our first after school reading activity began on September 24, with Bedtime Stories With The Principal. Over forty students and their parents joined Dr. Brun in the library at 7 p.m. to hear some of her favorite stories. We listened to the stories, played Simon Says, and Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes using our supersonic speed! Our favorite new story was "Room on the Broom."
- We are proud to announce that our fifth grade student, Gavin Walters, is a published illustrator. His illustration was selected from among hundreds of entries. The picture is

on page 32 of the book, "All You Can Be," by Curtis Granderson. Definitely, Mr. Granderson is our Tiger!

- Brummer Elementary School recently received a grant of \$750 from the Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance program to support our school's science program. For the past few years we have been selected to receive funds from the grant and were pleased this year when the amount increased from \$500 to \$750. We will be using the money to refill the supplies for our science kits in grades 1-5.

### **Dolsen Elementary**

- Dolsen's first day of school welcomed 35 new students in grades 1-5. Our curriculum night, shortly thereafter, enjoyed a huge crowd.
- Our student's exercised and had fun during our Walk-A-Thon and Rollerama events.
- Our 5<sup>th</sup> graders worked hard on writing. They took three topics and created small moments on each. Then they wrote personal narratives on their favorite one.
- Fourth grade made terrariums during their land and water instruction, and the students are eagerly waiting for the crickets to arrive.
- All our classrooms have enjoyed using the newly purchased ELMO document cameras.
- Our Reading Specialists have worked with our Title I Intervention Support Teacher to focus small groups and in-class instruction help with the following:
  - Reading and Math fluency labs
  - Writing focus groups
  - Guided Reading
  - Fifth grade collaborative Writing Workshop

### **Hardy Elementary**

- Hardy fourth graders have built classroom communities through morning meetings, sharing greeting, group activity, news and announcements.
- Hardy fourth graders studies ecosystems and collecting materials for terrariums.
- Hardy fourth graders initiated great home-school communication with the community via newsletters and websites.
- On September 24, Curriculum Night was a success as many parents and students were in attendance. Students showed their families around their rooms and then had fun at an ice cream social while parents stayed in the rooms to hear about the upcoming curriculum for the year.
- Hardy fourth graders launched Reading and Writing Workshops. Students were eager to begin to showcase their talents as writers and practice their comprehension strategies as readers.

### Kent Lake Elementary

- The first all school assembly for the 09-10 school year was held on September 9. Mrs. Dancer not only reviewed how to be a Kent Lake S.T.A.R (Stop, Think, Act, Review), but she also introduced all staff members and new students. The assembly concluded with the Kent Lake song.
- The first High Five Monday started the year off right on Monday, September 21. All staff members greeted students as they got off their bus, got out of their cars, entered the building, and entered the classrooms. High Five Monday will continue every Monday throughout the year.
- The Kindergarten thru Second Grade Curriculum Night was held on September 24. Many parents, students, and siblings enjoyed the evening. Students and siblings enjoyed a magic show by Thomas Plunkard for the first half hour while parents attended curriculum presentations in the classroom.
- The Third thru Fifth Grade Curriculum Night was held on September 30. Many parents, students, and siblings enjoyed the evening. Students and siblings enjoyed a magic show by Thomas Plunkard for the first half hour while parents attended curriculum presentations in the classroom.
- Constitution Day was celebrated throughout the state on September 17. Students participated in a variety of learning experiences pertaining to the Constitution. The experiences included creating a classroom constitution, deciphering the Preamble, creating a picture booklet accompanied by facts of the Constitution, and discussing the three branches of government and how the responsibility is shared.

### Salem Elementary

- The Annual Salem Ice Cream Social was held on September 23, 2009. There were fun activities for the kids as well as the free ice cream treat. The event was sponsored by Salem's PTO.
- The Scholastic Book Fair was held from September 9-23 and it was a great success! The Book Fair offered parents an opportunity to purchase books for their students as well as their children's classroom! It was even opened during the Ice Cream Social and Curriculum Night!
- There was a great turn out for Curriculum Night that was held on September 15, 2009! The families were very appreciative about the information that was presented and they were all excited about the upcoming school year.
- Many Salem students were summer readers over the summer! They participated in the Summer Reading Program by borrowing books for the school and committing to read daily over the summer! Way to go Salem students!

- Along with the Summer Reading Program, Salem students participated in a Summer Math program. Students took home a math packet for their upcoming grade and were able to complete math problems in order to help retain what was taught during the school year. For the students that returned their completed math packet, they will have lunch with Mr. Brickey once a month and play games!

### **Sayre Elementary**

- Sayre teachers were mathematicians during their Curriculum Day on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. In order to further their understanding of place value, they worked in teams to solve an addition problem in a base five number system and then convert it back to base ten. Each and every day teachers are learners too!
- The Sayre community enjoyed an Ice Cream Social on September 11<sup>th</sup>. On a beautiful late summer evening, parents and students had fun catching up with one another and learned a bit more about some of the activities that occur during the school year.
- Sayre students recognized Constitution Day on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Students recited the Preamble, read the book *We the Kids*, and used the United Streaming resource on our computers to learn more about the foundation of our government.
- Sayre welcomed its volunteers with a CHEERS breakfast on September 18<sup>th</sup>. More than thirty parents and friends came to our orientation to learn about the variety of ways that our students benefit from their help. Our school is fortunate to have such an enthusiastic, generous, and skilled CHEERS organization!
- Sayre's Curriculum Night events were very well attended on September 24<sup>th</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>. Parents learned about Grade Level Content Expectations and the powerful district curriculum during classroom presentations while students enjoyed a magic show in the gym. During the Open House portion of the evening, students were proud to show their parents around their classrooms and visited a fantastic book fair. We are ready for a great year of learning!

### **Centennial Middle School**

- Performing Arts students have been broadcasting the morning and afternoon announcements to the Centennial staff and student body. Their announcements were informative and energetic. Students had a rotating schedule giving several the opportunity to be "live" on the air.
- The first New Student Connection Luncheon was held on Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the luncheon was to help seventh and eighth grade students connect in school who are new to Centennial this year. At the luncheon the students were introduced to the principals, counselors, the athletic coordinator and a group of

leadership students. They enjoyed refreshments with pizza and an ice cream cake. A game called "Fruit Basket" was played as an ice breaker. The luncheon was successful as many students left with new friends to share the school year with.

- Eighth grade Algebra students, at Centennial Middle School, completed an investigation on two-variable data. Students rolled matchbox cars down ramps and measured the height of the ramp and distance the car rolled, each time changing the height. Using this data, students created a scatter plot that displayed the relationship between the two variables.
- CMS students in Mrs. Barshaw's eight grade class celebrated Constitution Day with a discovery activity meant to replicate the feeling the Founding Fathers felt when they met at the Constitutional Convention. They discuss the Preamble to the Constitution and observed a video describing what the Preamble means so they could have a better understanding of it.
- The CMS Media Center transformed their area into a display room for the Book Fair held the last week of September. All grades were given time to preview many of the Scholastic Book choices before purchasing them. The book fair is held annually and encourages CMS students to read and learn!

### **Millennium Middle School**

- Sixth grade technology students explored the area of recycling and its importance in today's world. They researched their topics on the Internet and wrote a script based on the information found and presented to their class.
- Seventh grade industrial technology students studies safe tool usage, propulsion, friction and leverage as related to the construction to their mouse trap vehicles.
- Rocketry was the subject at hand for eighth grade technology students. They learned the history of rocketry and Newton's three Laws of Motion while constructing water bottle rockets which were launched and recovered outdoors.
- In today's world, peace needs to become more than just a word. Art students of Jennifer Robeson and Amber Wright took part in an International art and literacy project, Pinwheels for Peace. Students created paper pinwheels which were displayed in the Library Gallery to spread thoughts and feelings about peace.
- On Thursday, September 17, MMS held its annual "Trading Spaces" Curriculum Night for parents. After a welcome by Ms. Altermatt and Mr. Plummer, parents participated in a mini version of their student's school day by visiting each teacher/classroom for 10 minutes. The evening was a success with 481 parents participating this year.

## South Lyon East High School

- “Philosophy Students Study the Logos by Building Structures with Legos”: All thirty-two students in Mr. Grieves’ Classic Literature and Thought, an Honors/Accelerated English Class which evaluated literature from a philosophical perspective, deepened their understanding of Jostein Gaardner’s *Sophie’s World: A Novel about the History of Philosophy* by using Legos to build a structure which would encourage conversation and discovery among its denizens. Gaardner specifically mentions that Legos are the most intellectual and philosophical toy ever created. Students formed groups and built structures using Legos. Each student, then, completed a fifteen-minute Writing on demand, concentrating on how well he or she thought his or her group’s edifice would facilitate conversation and discovery among all who would live within its walls. The structure of and the technology available in the Design and Technology Pathway Project Room were perfect for this lesson and assessment.
- On September 26, 2009, South Lyon East hosted the First Annual South Lyon Community Schools Legislative Debate Tournament and Novice Workshop. The tournament pitted 45 legislative debaters from 12 different schools against each other as they debated their national legislative bills. South Lyon East debaters, Amanda Tripp and Patrick Brodesser created legislation on Universal health Care, Safe Packaging, Mad Cow Disease Prevention, and recycling for the event. Novice seminars gave hands on experience to of 100 novice hopefuls. Coach presenter lessons, power points and footage taped by Mrs. Stacey Briggs of a competitive round, have been archived on the Michigan Interscholastic Forensics Association Archive. Although debaters do not compete in their own tournament, our teams, booster parents and staff made the event a hit that will give our district notoriety as a competitive and landmark legislative debate school.
- As the trees turned into a splendid palette around us this fall, students in Mr. Gale and Mrs. Toth’s biology classes took a closer look. Students learned that careful observation is important to science and that detailed observations and notes can help to verify their work. As a team, students were given a bowl of leaves. Without looking into the bowl, each student removed a leaf. Careful observations were recorded through words, pictures and data. When as many observations as possible were recorded, each leaf was returned to its original bowl. The leaves were then mixed up and the students’ notes were used to find their original leaf. For even more reinforcement, the students then exchanged observations and were expected to follow a peer’s observations and measurements to find their friend’s leaf. In the end, students were able to recognize and explain the limitations of measuring devices while closely observing the leaves that made fall so wonderful.

- South Lyon East parents came “back to school” on the evening of September 16<sup>th</sup> as they followed the schedule of their student. Teachers in each of the classes shared the course instructional map, the expectations for the class, their various methods of instruction, and the numerous opportunities for assistance. Teachers emphasized that all students can succeed.

### **South Lyon High School**

- Government teacher, Toni Simovski, attended a Library of Congress Workshop this past August where he was involved in developing lessons via the Library of Congress web site. Simovski also works at the Henry Ford Museum as a Teacher Fellow redesigning curriculum for the Henry Ford Academy, creating new itineraries and helping give input in redesigning the museum.
- On September 15, 2009, each grade level met in the Auditorium with our building administrators for their fall class assemblies. Every group of students brought their student handbook/planner to write down relevant dates for their class and to write down a response to a reflective prompt. Each grade level assembly had a theme relevant to their grade level. The 9<sup>th</sup> graders were introduced to Listen, Learn, Exert, Respect, which is the SLHS basis for our academic and personal behaviors. With tenth grade students, we emphasized purpose, the idea of increased expectations after the 9<sup>th</sup> grade transition year and the need to begin thinking about long range goals. Eleventh graders were encouraged to maintain focus, as during this year the rigor of courses as well as the MME test has an impact on college admission and other future opportunities. Finally seniors were encouraged to strive for balance, to enjoy the privileges of being seniors while taking on new responsibilities of adulthood and preparing for life beyond high school.
- The sculpture students were at it again with the tape figures. Students wrapped up friends with packing tape. (Remember to have the sticky side up the first wrapping layer Alex, ouch!). Then the tape was carefully cut off and reassembled to form a complete human. Students added ties, masks or clothing to personalize their sculpture. Next they needed to get a public showing and capture audience reaction. Our students visited classrooms and the lunch commons to put their sculpture into action. Taking the show on the road demonstrated to the student that sculpture is not just in museum or non-interactive. Sculpture can be as lively and charismatic as the students themselves. Most of the sculptures went to a good home. They will look incredible at Halloween so watch out. You might be fooled by the flowing form.
- The 2009 Pride of Lions South Lyon Marching Band and Guard under the direction of Mr. Robert K. Bosma began another competitive season performing its show Copland Remixed. Aaron Copland (1900-1990) was an American composer of concert and film

music who was instrumental in forging a distinctly American style of composition and was widely known as "the dean of American composers." Copland's music achieved a balance between modern music and American folk styles. The open, slowly changing harmonies of many of his works are said to evoke the vast American landscape.

The show Copland Remixed highlights some of Copland's better known works but in an updated settings. The first movement, Fanfare for the Common Man, was originally written for brass and percussion premiered in 1942 as a patriotic work. The band's version is inspired by the Emerson, Lake and Palmer's rock interpretation of Fanfare. The second movement is a techno take on Copland's Hoedown from his Western themed ballet Rodeo. The third movement uses various themes from his ballet, Appalachian Spring which premiered in 1944. This ballet is also known as Ballet for Martha, as Copland dedicated the work to the great choreographer Martha Graham. This arrangement features a jazz setting of the popular theme "Simple Gifts" and closes with a dramatic ending.

The first competition of the season was on September 26 at Novi HS. The band gave a strong performance, earning them second place in Flight 3 and tying for the award for best music. The band continues its season at the Linden Invitational on October 10 hoping to earn another trip to the State Finals at Ford Field.

- 2009 South Lyon High School graduate, Eria Blankenship, was awarded The Evans Scholars Foundation this fall. Evans Scholars are golf caddies who are selected based on four criteria: a strong caddie record, excellent academics, financial need and outstanding character. The scholarships are renewable for up to four years, and most students are attending one of the 14 universities where the Foundation owns and operates a Scholarship House.

Recipients were chosen after individual interviews at selection meetings held throughout the country by the Western Golf Association. The Evans Scholarship Program has been administered by the WGA, headquartered in Golf, Illinois, since its inception in 1930. It is among the nation's largest privately funded scholarship programs.

- Senior Molly Buis has been named a Commended Student in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Certificate of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which conducts the program, will be presented to Bonnie at the Senior Honors Program next June. Molly is one of 34,000 Commended Students nationwide who are being recognized for their scores on the Fall 2008 PSAT and for their

exceptional academic promise. These students scored in the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who took the PSAT when they were high school juniors.