

BENTHEIM NEWSLETTER

Sept. 16, 2011

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It's assessment season already. Students in grades K-3 took the DIBELS test this past Tuesday. Students in grades 2-5 will be taking the Scholastic Reading Inventory this coming week, and students in grades 1-5 will be taking the Delta Math screener later this month as well. All this information will help us provide instruction specifically geared to our students' needs.

LUNCH ORDERS

All students eating hot lunch, either A or B, must submit a lunch order on the Monday after the monthly menu goes home. The food is actually prepared at the High School, so we need to know how much of each item to prepare. Thank you!

B.E.S.T. Track is open!

Track is open M, W, and F during afternoon recess until Thanksgiving break (weather permitting) for grades 1-5. Encourage your child(ren) to be ACTIVE during recess! There are a few changes to the program this year. We have moved away from punch cards and

now have the kids keeping track of laps with craft sticks and spreadsheets. For every mile completed (7 laps), students (1st-5th) will earn a plastic foot charm. Each student will get a chain to hold his or her foot charms - it can be worn as a bracelet or attached to a bag/backpack. They should be coming home soon! If you are interested in volunteering to help with track make sure you have a WISH profile on file and contact volunteer coordinator, Amy Berarducci (269-751-6655, amyberarducci@gmail.com).

PTO NEWS

The PTO fundraiser kicked off last week Friday with a short assembly. The fundraiser will end on Monday, Sep. 25, and items may be picked up on Wed., Oct. 19. The PTO fundraiser helps pay for special events that take place throughout the school year and provides money for classroom supplies.

HAMILTON IDOL

Applications are available in the school office until 9/23. Completed applications must be turned into Paul Connelly at the Middle School by 9/26. You can also complete an application online at www.hamiltonidol.com.

From the Social Work Corner:

Hopefully your families are getting settled into the routine of the school year again! Here are a few tips to help your transition go as smoothly as possible:

- *Do as much as you can the night before.* This includes doing homework, packing backpacks, making lunches, picking out clothes, and even setting the table for breakfast! The more you have done the night before, the less rushed you are in the morning.
- *Have a system.* Make sure your kids know where they should hang their backpacks, where they should put papers that come home, and when they are expected to do homework.
- *Create responsibilities.* Kids of all ages need to have some responsibility related to school and organization. Make a list of nighttime and morning jobs (with pictures for non-readers), put it in a cheap document frame with glass (I recently found some at the dollar store), and hang it in prominent spot (in their room, bathroom, or by the front door). Then they can use a dry erase marker to cross off jobs as they are done (<http://www.imom.com> has a nice customizable one you can download for free). No more nagging!
- *Get back to the basics!* Kids need sleep and nutritious food in order to do well in school. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends 10-12 hours of sleep per night for children ages 3-6 years old and 10-11 hours of sleep per night for children ages 7-12. Also, make sure your kids have a healthy breakfast, snack, and lunch every day. Fruit, yogurt, string cheese, low sugar cereal, and whole grain bread are all good choices.

Mrs. Randall is in the district Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays and travels between Bentheim and Sandyview Elementary School. She can be reached at krandall@hamiltonschools.us or 269 751-5335 ext. 225. She is happy to talk with students or parents about any issue that might be impacting kids' ability to do well in school.

SENIOR CLASS FUNDRAISER: Please join us on Tuesday, Sept. 20, from 5:00-9:00p.m. at Cold Stone Creamery, downtown Holland. Twenty members from the senior class will be serving ice cream...they would love to sing for a tip.



BENTHEIM NEWSLETTER

MAY 6, 2011

FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

This is the fourth article in a series of seven about Hamilton Community Schools' performance on NCA Standards. Continuous improvement is something Hamilton Community Schools strive to achieve. In an effort to clearly communicate those goals, we invite you to learn about the fourth standard in the North Central Accreditation process for district wide accreditation. Standard four is documenting and using results.

Standard IV: Documenting and Using Results

"A school is successful in meeting this standard when it uses a comprehensive assessment system based on clearly defined performance measures. The system is used to assess student performance on expectations for student learning, evaluate the effectiveness of curriculum and instruction, and determine interventions to improve student performance. The assessment system yields timely and accurate information that is meaningful and useful to school leaders, teachers and other stakeholders in understanding student performance, school effectiveness and the results of improvement efforts."

When thinking about how Hamilton Community Schools are growing and improving, we ask you to consider this question: How well is your child doing on assessments? Think about Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS), the Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI), MEAP and assessments sent home by teachers. If you do not know the answers to any portion of this question, please ask your child's teacher or building principal.

ATTENTION SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS.....

The volunteer recognition is Wednesday, May 18th. The evening will include dinner and a fun packed program by River City Improv. Registration starts at 6:00 with dinner at 6:30. It's going to be a great evening!! If you have volunteered for any of the Hamilton Community Schools this school year you are invited. Please contact the volunteer office (jboyles@hamiltonschools.us or 269-751-6203) right away to reserve your spot.

MOTHER'S DAY FLOWER SALE

This Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. buy your Mother's Day flowers or hanging baskets at the Hamilton Food Center to help raise money for the Senior All Night Party. Also the Hamilton Food Center will be donating a portion of their sales on Saturday to the Hamilton Senior All Night Party!

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

The following students were chosen this week for "Student of the Week". Their pictures were displayed on the bulletin board in the main hallway and they will also have snack/lunch with Mr. Scoville soon:

Marissa VanDerKamp – Kdg
Alex VanDyke – Kdg
Owen Eckwielen – 1st Grade
Garret Wolters – 1st Grade
Parker Phillips – 1st Grade
Danika Becksvoort – 2nd Grade
Willie Shinal – 5th Grade
Ben VanHuis – 5th Grade

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

This past week was Teacher Appreciation Week. As we approach the last month of school, this is a great time to say, "Thank you," to the gifted and dedicated teachers who spend countless hours educating our kids. I feel blessed to work with such a great staff.

Wonderful Teacher

With a special gift for learning
And with a heart that deeply cares,
You add a lot of love
To everything you share,
And even though
You mean a lot,
You'll never know how much,
For you helped
To change the world
Through every life you touched.
You sparked the creativity
In the students whom you taught,
And helped them strive for goals
That could not be bought,
You are such a special teacher
That no words can truly tell
However much you're valued
For the work you do so well.
- Author Unknown

OPEN AUDITIONS FOR "ANNIE"

The HCS Youth Theatre will be staging the musical ANNIE July 26-30 (5 shows). For this production, Director Fred Chmielewski will be holding open auditions for girls ages 8-13, young adults and adults for the main roles and chorus. Auditions will be held at 6:00PM on Monday, May 9 and Wednesday, May 11 in the Vocal Room of Hamilton High School. Vocal Director, Holly Israels, and Choreographer, Taryn Timmer, will conduct these auditions. More information is available by calling Fred Chmielewski at 616-218-3088 or by emailing him at fchmielewski@hotmail.com.

BENTHEIM NEWSLETTER

APRIL 28, 2011

FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

This is the third article in a series of seven about Hamilton Community Schools' performance on NCA Standards. Our focus this week is Standard III, Teaching and Learning. To gain accreditation, HCS must demonstrate that it is committed to high standards, continuous improvement and quality assurance. An accreditation team (QAR - Quality Assurance Review) will visit Hamilton in late October/early November to review our work on the standards.

Standard III: Teaching and Learning

"A school is successful in meeting this standard when it implements a curriculum based on clear and measurable expectations for student learning that provides opportunities for all students to acquire requisite knowledge, skills and attitudes. Teachers use proven instructional practices that actively engage students in the learning process. Teachers provide opportunities for students to apply their knowledge and skills to real world situations. Teachers give students feedback to improve their performance."

To determine our level of performance on Standard III, we evaluate how we develop expectations for student learning, how we allocate and protect instructional time, how we implement interventions to help students meet expectations and how we design and use instructional strategies, innovations and activities that are research-based and reflective of best practices.

BENTHEIM "BEATING THE ODDS"

If you subscribe to the Holland Sentinel, you may have noticed an article about schools "beating the odds." Bentheim and Hamilton Middle School were both recognized by the Michigan Department of Education as two of one hundred thirty-five schools in Michigan who are getting better-than-expected results when comparing them to schools with similar demographics.

"These are schools that are doing remarkable things to help their students achieve, despite the odds being stacked against them," Mike Flanagan, state superintendent of public instruction, said in a news release.

I was pleasantly surprised when I was informed we made this list. I attributed our success to two factors:

1) tremendous parent involvement and investment in your child's education, and 2) phenomenal teachers who work tirelessly to meet the individual needs of our students. Unfortunately, the second part of that equation was omitted in the paper. Our students, parents and staff should all be proud of their efforts.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

The following students were chosen this week for "Student of the Week". Their pictures were displayed on the bulletin board in the main hallway and they will also have snack/lunch with Mr. Scoville soon:

Kaylie VanDerHult – Kdg
Sydney VanBruggen – Kdg
Ashley Koopman – 1st Grade
Zeke Tyler – 2nd Grade
Emma Berens – 2nd Grade
Jonnica Gathers – 5th Grade

PTO Elections

As we look ahead to our May 23 PTO meeting, we will be electing PTO officers for next year. The Bentheim PTO is unique in the sense that everyone who attends the meetings has an equal voice and vote. If you have an interest in serving on our PTO board, please call the main office at (269) 751-5335.

REMINDER: Hawkeye apparel orders are due today! If you have not returned yours but would like to order, please return them to school on Monday morning, and we will make sure they get included.



RESULTS FROM THE FORMIDDABLE FEET COMPETITION

JUGGLING

3rd Grade: Emma Hayes
4th Grade: Jenna Kloosterman
5th Grade: Alisha Henry & Travis Rouwhorst

DISTANCE

3rd Grade: Justine Bronkhorst & Ryan Demaray
4th Grade: Myra Becksfort & Austin Brown
5th Grade: Ava Caswell & Gavin VanDerKamp

ACCURACY

3rd Grade: Kendalle Kelsch & Jaeger Heneveld
4th Grade: Olivia Schwartz & Dylan Hayes
5th Grade: Alexandria Edsall & Nicholas Edsall

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WINNERS!

**REMINDER: NO SCHOOL
TOMORROW!**

BENTHEIM NEWSLETTER

DEC. 10, 2010

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

Although the concept is not entirely new, a big focus in education these days is "Differentiated Instruction." The idea behind differentiating instruction is to provide each student work at his/her ability level. Last year, the Bentheim staff did a book study on Teaching Gifted Kids in the Regular Classroom by Susan Winebrenner.

This year, we are focusing some of our efforts on Delta Math, an intervention program developed by the OAISD. The ISD has identified the primary Grade Level Content Expectations for math from the previous grade level and developed online screening assessments for students to take in the fall, winter and spring. This, in turn, helps us identify which learning gaps may exist for individual students. Our teachers in grades 1-5 are spending a lot of time developing separate lesson plans for students based on which gaps have been discovered. The results, thus far, are very encouraging.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, Dec. 13, 2010 at 7:30p.m. in the High School Forum Room. Agenda items will include:

1. Instructional Highlight – Cross Country Team Recognized & Sandyview Elementary Curriculum Update
2. Technology Purchase

Meetings of the Board of Education are open to the public and opportunity for public comment is provided.

2011 Y5/KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

If your child will be five years old on, or before, December 1, 2011, please call our office to register for kindergarten screening. We would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible so we can begin planning for our new class. If you could share this information with neighbors who do not yet have children in school, we would appreciate that too. Thank you.

P.T.O. NEWS...

If you are in need of any gift cards for Christmas, our PTO has a large number of them in stock. If you wish to purchase Scrip cards, stop in the office anytime between 8:00-4:00. A list of available cards is on the back of this newsletter. All orders for next week are due in the office by 8:30a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2010.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

The following students were chosen this week for "Student of the Week". Their pictures were displayed on the bulletin board in the main hallway and they will also have snack/lunch with Mr. Scoville soon:

Lorenzo Larson – Young Fives
Alexis Friday – 1st Grade
Rachel Nackers – 2nd Grade
Josie VanderZwaag – 2nd Grade
Maddie VanSlooten – 3rd Grade
Austin Sal – 3rd Grade
Emma Hayes – 3rd Grade
Jenna Kloosterman – 4th Grade
Tyler Kuhn – 4th Grade
Dylan Helder – 5th Grade
Dylan Kellum – 5th Grade

SOCCER TRAINING

When: Tuesdays, January 28th – February 15th

Where: Bentheim Elementary

4057 38th Street, Hamilton, Michigan

Time: 6:30-7:30pm (Girls U9-U12)

7:30-8:30pm (Boys U9-U12)

Cost: \$40 per participant

Required Equipment: Indoor/tennis shoes, water bottle, shin guards, and ball

Register by email: stormrushlau@hotmail.com or by calling: Gil Rushlau 616-531-9459

GIRLS ON THE RUN

Registration for Girls on the Run begins Jan. 1st at www.gotroac.org. If you are unable to register on-line between January 1-27, a Registration Open House will be at the Hamilton Middle School (4845 136th Ave) on Jan. 13, 2011 from 3:00-6:00p.m. Practices will start in late February/early March. If you have any questions, please call the school office at (269) 751-5335.

ART, IT'S OUT THERE PICKUP

Art show pieces have been returned to Bentheim. If you would like to purchase your son or daughter's artwork before Christmas, please let Mrs. Eden know. She is at Bentheim Wednesday through Friday and can arrange for those pieces to be in the office for you to pick up. Please leave a message or email her tfrost@hamiltontonschools.us, so she can leave those pieces in the office for you. Payment for pieces is due at time of pickup and should be made out to Art it's out there.