

Beaver Island Community School Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Speed Painter
10/25/11
- ◆ NO SCHOOL
Teacher Training
11/2/11
- ◆ End of Marking
Period & Half
Day of School
11/4/11
- ◆ Parent - Teacher
Conferences
11/7/11

STUDENTS IN GRADES 3-9 INVOLVED IN MEAP TESTING

All students in grades 3 - 9 have been taking the state of Michigan Educational Assessment Program Test. Overall, the MEAP tests the following subject areas: Math, Writing, Science, and Social Studies. The final days of testing are Tuesday and Wednesday Oct. 18 & 19 with subjects of Math, Writing, Science and Social Studies. Reading and half of the Writing were completed this week.

Thanks to parents for making sure that students are in school on the testing dates. Results of these tests are used by the teachers as one assessment of how BICS students are mastering the Michigan grade level curriculum. Typically BICS students score above state and local averages on

the MEAP tests with most students scoring proficient.

The results of this year's MEAP testing will likely look a little different as the state has raised the bar in terms of what it takes to be deemed 'proficient'. According to State Superintendent Mike Flanagan, *"We aren't making the test tougher. What we're doing is asking kids to get more of the test items correct to be deemed proficient"*.

Other changes are on the way with state testing as Michigan joins 41 other states in adopting Common Core State Standards in Math and English Language Arts. By 2014 the MEAP and other state assessments will be aligned to these new curriculum standards.

END OF 1ST MARKING PERIOD AND CONFERENCES

The first marking period ends with a half-day of school on Friday, November 4, 2011 and all Students will be dismissed at 11:25.

If parents want a heads-up on where grades are likely to be at the end of the marking, parents of students in grades 6 - 12 can check student grades online - if you do not know how to do this, please check with your student or with a teacher to learn how.

Teachers will finalize grades on Friday afternoon and report cards will be printed on Monday, November 7, 2011.

Parent- teacher conferences will be held on Monday, November 7 beginning at 2:15. Parents will receive a conference schedule the last week of October.

**NO SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 2 - TEACHERS ATTEND
ALL DAY TRAINING**

**LOOK AT THE GOALS
WE HAVE TO MAKE
SURE BICS CONTINUES
TO EARN AN

ON STATE REPORT
CARD!!**

SCHOOL BOARD GOALS

1. Update Board Policies
2. Support Career & College Readiness
3. Understand and Support Quality Teacher Professional Development
4. Prepare a timeline for Administrator Transition
5. Enhance Communication between school and parents

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1. Understand Implications of Common Core State Standards
2. Improve Reading Fluency - Elementary
3. Improve Career and College Readiness Scores
4. Research Best Practices in Secondary Grading and Homework
5. Improve Teacher Capacity for Authentic and Long-lasting Learning



ELEMENTARY LUNCHES

Note to parents of elementary students who carry a lunch to school: please make sure that what is sent in lunches can be easily and safely prepared. While there is a microwave available in the elementary lunch room, some microwavable items take too long to prepare or are dangerous for young students if they need to heat water. For elementary students, the easy-mac or other individual lunches that must have water added and take longer than a couple of minutes to prepare are a problem. Thanks for your understanding; I know that it takes some planning to find the right balance for school lunches.

WORLD LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT MET THROUGH BLENDED INSTRUCTION

Current state of Michigan high school graduation requirements dictate that all 2016 graduates complete 2 credits of world languages; the two credits must be completed in the same language. The district does not have a teacher with foreign language certification and searched for a world language teacher during the summer of 2011, but was unsuccessful in

finding a qualified candidate. To solve the problem, a unique combination of proven on-line instruction will be blended with weekly video chat sessions with a certified mainland (Pellston Public Schools) teacher who will also be on site once every 3 weeks to meet face-to-face with students. When the teacher is on-site, he will also do Spanish lessons with the K-8 students.

YOUNGEST AND OLDEST STUDENTS “DIG IN”

Juniors and seniors at BICS are working with PK and Kindergarten students in an archeological dig under the direction of teachers Miranda Rooy and Adam Richards. The students will be digging for a couple of hours a week for six weeks. The site was previously documented by Dr. Joe Chartkoff, retired professor of archaeology at MSU. The

location is on state records as the Joe West cabin site. The students will also be cleaning up any artifacts they find and will produce a report to be submitted to the state and kept in its records. Teachers Rooy and Richards were members of an on-island archeology course as part of a group from Notre Dame University led by Professor Deb Rotman.

ISLANDER SOCCER

As the soccer season winds down, the Islanders find themselves with a record of 2 wins and 4 losses. The team is excited about the last games of the season and is hoping to place near the top at the NLL tournament in Paradise on Friday October 28th.



 GO ISLANDER SOCCER 

ISLANDER VOLLEYBALL

Islander Volleyball nears the end of its season with a league record of 4 wins and 2 losses. The team took 2nd place in the NLL V-ball tournament at S.S. Marie in September. The Lady Islanders will participate in the district volleyball competition on Tuesday, November 1st at Pellston.



 GO ISLANDER VOLLEYBALL 

REMAINING 2011 SOCCER & VOLLEYBALL GAMES

- OCT. 14&15: MACKINAC ISLAND @ BEAVER ISLAND **SOCCER & VBALL**
 - OCT. 20 & 21: MUNISING BAPTIST @ BEAVER ISLAND **SOCCER & VBALL**
 - OCT. 28: NLL **SOCCER TOURNAMENT** @ PARADISE
 - NOV. 1ST: **DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL** vs. PELLSTON @ PELLSTON 5:00PM
- Soccer Games typically start @ 5:00pm on Fridays & 10:30AM on Saturdays*
Volleyball Games typically start @ 7:30PM on Fridays & 8:30AM on Saturdays
Note that the Munising Games are on Thursday Night and Friday Morning

YOUNGEST AND OLDEST STUDENTS “DIG IN”



Preschooler Sienna and Senior Brigid “Dig In”
Sienna holds a nail found on the site.

OFFICIAL K-12 COUNT IS 69

The school’s current enrollment is 72 when you include the 3 preschoolers who attend with the kindergarteners three mornings per week. School enrollment has fluctuated over the past 50 years, with a low of 53 students in the 1976-77 school year and a high of 101 in the 1995-96 school year when enrollment jumped by 18 students in one year. The jump was directly related to a large logging operation at the time, and enrollment dropped back in the following years. The average student enrollment for the last 50 years is 72. Welcome to the Pryor family who recently moved to Beaver Island. Students, 6th grader Paige, 8th grader Taylor and 11th grader Michael enrolled at BICS a week ago.



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MARTINA HAHN: SPEED PAINTER, MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER, ARTIST TO PERFORM OCTOBER 25

According to the speaker's website: " My Speed Painting Events involve a 45 minute story telling of classic children's books, such as 'Where the Wild Things are', Dr. Seuss stories, and many more. We talk about the moral of the story, the author and circumstances of the book while the children actively participate as the audience. At the end of the story, I paint a 5'x 5' canvas of the story we told to music in approximately 6 minutes. The canvas is mounted on a rotating easel and keeps turning while I paint it." The program is sponsored by our 21st Century Community Learning Center grant.



SECONDARY MATH STUDENTS USE TI-Nspire CALCULATORS

Students are using the new TI-Nspire graphing calculators - they do just about everything! Most students are very excited at learning how to use them. The older students were thrilled to find out the calculators will solve equations for them! At the Functions, Statistics & Trigonometry level there are times where it's fine to use the technology to solve the equation, as the students have already learned in previous courses how to do so manually. The younger students are still required to solve them manually, of course. But they can use the calculator to check their work.

Brief Notes about School Happenings

- The **School Board** meets on the Second Monday of each month at 7:30p.m. The next meeting is on: **Monday, November 14, 2011**. The board meetings are held in room 115 at the school and you are encouraged to attend. Board Officers were elected at the July meeting: President Barb Schwartzfisher; Vice-President Nancy Tritsch; Treasurer Karen Johnson; Secretary Dana Hodgson. Trustees Dawn Marsh, Jessica Anderson and Brian Cole round out the board.
- All 1st - 6th grade Guidance classes are working on **conflict resolution skills**.
- Seniors are busy filling out **college applications**.
- **Flu shots** will be given at the school by the BI Rural Health Center staff.
- The school board is planning for **administrative transition** for the school year **2013 -14**. Kathleen McNamara will continue to work as Principal & Superintendent until June 2013.
- BICS will be an UNOFFICIAL pilot of an emerging approach to history sponsored by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. It is called **Big History**. Teacher Adam Richards will be piloting the interactive curriculum along with just a few other schools in the USA and Australia.
<http://www.bighistoryproject.com/>