

# VIKING PRESS



**Bangor Public Schools** • 801 W. Arlington Street, Bangor, Michigan 49013  
 “Providing Educational Excellence as a Pathway to Success”

**April 1st DON'T BE FOOLED!**  
 There has been a change in the school year calendar. Friday, April 1st will now be a half day for students.

## Superintendent's Article

### A Time of Renewal

By Dennis Paquette, Superintendent

This is a time of Bangor Schools growing stronger. Today, thanks to the grit and determination of the community, administrators, teachers and support staff, there is much progress to report.

I'm very proud of the direction that our school district is heading. At this time last year we were all coming to grips with the dire and uncertain financial situation that we found ourselves. To start the 2014-15 school year we were deep into deficit spending. Our budgetary problems put us close to one million dollars in debt. We were in serious trouble.

With the State of Michigan looking over our shoulder we were faced with the necessity of taking aggressive steps to make an immediate impact on our financial woes. At the same time we needed to work to grow our district. With the help of anonymous donors within the community we purchased Yard Signs for district residents. This allowed our community to show the pride we have in our schools. The response to the yard sign initiative was very positive. We have banners hanging from the light poles downtown. These banners "trumpet our senior athletes and programs. Community members paid for the banners and teachers raised additional funds to help off-set the costs associated with this effort.

With the help of all employment groups, we made significant mid-year cuts to staffing, programs and spending. We continued to address the budget throughout the summer. In March, the MDE moved us from category Three (Districts that were continuing to increase their deficit) to category two (Districts decreasing their deficit). This was very positive news for our students and staff.

**"We are almost \$250,000 ahead of the Deficit Elimination Plan filed with MDE."**

In October of this school year, the auditing firm of Schaffer & Layher conducted our annual audit of our business and accounting practices. With

### 2016 Hall of Fame Inductees

Congratulations to Ray Porter, Brandon Shull, and Darrick Parker for being inducted into the Bangor Athletic Hall of Fame.



**Ray Porter** is a graduate of the class of 2005 and was an All-State Wrestler placing 3rd in the State at the MHSAA Wrestling Finals.  
**Brandon Shull** was a graduate of the class of 2007 and was an All-State Wrestler placing 3rd in the State at the MHSAA Wrestling Finals.  
**Darrick Parker** was a graduate of the class of 2006 and was the 160 lb. Wrestling State Champion at the MHSAA Wrestling Finals.

The Bangor Hall of Fame has been relocated to the lobby of the high school gymnasium for the public to enjoy!

## South Walnut Elementary Great Kindness Week

Imagine students complimenting each other, reaching out to a lonely child, picking up trash, surprising friends with happy notes in their desks, thanking their teachers creatively, and eating lunch with a new group of friends. These kind acts and more took place in schools across all 50 states during the 5th Annual Great Kindness Challenge! South Walnut Elementary hosted several events during the week. With the help of parent volunteers, the school counselor and staff, students had a fun-filled week. Each day was a dress up day; hats, colors for grade levels, sports team shirts, crazy clothes/hair and



red and white for Proud Vikings! Students had the opportunity to write kind words to others and have them read during the announcements each afternoon.

Jim McManigal, Executive Director of Kids for Peace, stated, "When students perform kind act after kind act, kindness becomes a habit. When kindness becomes a habit, peace becomes possible."

Mrs. Small, school counselor was excited about the enthusiasm here at South Walnut, "The week gave the power to increase empathy, tolerance, and kindness for all of our students."



Part of the activities for the week included students having the chance to create a variety of crafts during recess with the help of parent volunteers and crazy hair and clothes.

### Project Lean

Project LEAN is being offered to our students at South Walnut one day a week for a total of six weeks. Christine Janssen, from the Van Buren ISD is coming in to classrooms and educating students on nutrition and physical activity that help implement strategies that will improve their daily life.

Did you know that sugary drinks are the single largest source of calories in the American diet? Greater sugary beverage consumption is associated with weight gain, obesity, and diabetes. The average person in the U.S. drank 45 gallons of sugary drinks in 2009. Increasing access to more healthful beverages is important for reducing sugary drink consumption. Students at South Walnut have access to drinking faucets in the classroom and in the hallways. Students can also bring water bottles to school. We encourage our students to drink more water and fewer sugar-sweetened beverages.

February 10th was an exciting FUN, FREE day at South Walnut Elementary! "Everyday Leader with Ronald McDonald" was presented to our Pre-School - 4th grade. The show teaches kids that "Everyday Leaders" are kids that inspire others to be their best through their actions. We want all of our students to lead by example! Students are responsible for their ACTIONS, and DO their best in everything they do... L.E.A.D.! Ronald McDonald sent a very meaningful message to our children with music, magic and lots of laughter.

### Ronald McDonald Visits South Walnut

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### Parent-Teacher Conferences

Thursday, February 18, 2016  
 1-4 p.m. and 5-8 p.m.

A growing body of evidence suggests that family engagement matters for student success. Research shows that family engagement improves school readiness, student achievement, and social skills. Furthermore, an increasing number of innovative approaches to education connect the many settings and times in which children learn and grow to create seamless systems that families are the core in the learning process.

Conferences are a two-way conversation. This is an opportunity for parents to learn about their child's progress in school and for teachers to gain insights into their students' home and community lives. Parent perspectives on student strengths and needs, learning styles, and non-school learning opportunities can help teachers shape their instructional methods.

## Bangor Middle School What's New in the Middle School?

By Mike Dandron, Principal

Dear Bangor Families,

Bangor Middle School is off to a quick start in the second Semester. We will soon be assessing students in the Winter/Spring benchmark of the NWEA MAP assessment. Students in the middle school will be taking the MAP for the second time beginning the week of February 29th. This process should take us approximately 2-3 weeks to complete all students in grades 5th - 8th. This assessment will help us identify areas of strength and weaknesses in reading, math, and language usage for our students.

This weekend South Haven hosted its annual Winter Festival. On Sat. Feb. 6th, Bangor Middle School and Bangor High School students participated in the ICE BREAKER ice carving event. This was our 6th consecutive year to send student ice carvers to represent our school in this popular Winter Fest activity. The students carved two blocks, sponsored by Meijer.

They gave us free choice to carve whatever we wanted. One block was a Star Wars Storm Trooper and the other was the Head of the terminator. Bangor won first and second place in the student division of Ice Breaker.

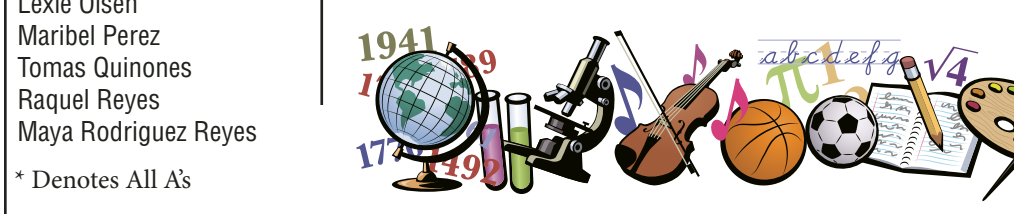
In addition to trophies there is a \$100 first place prize and a \$50 second place prize.



In Mr. Smith's science class, the students have been assigned the task to design a board game that is both entertaining and educational. The topic is the periodic table. The students spent a week creating a "rough draft" version of the game and then presented/played the game with the class. After gathering feedback on how to improve the game, they are now back to work making their final copies! Below is a picture of Chemistry Dash. Chemistry Dash was created and designed by 8th graders Dirk Brunt and Jesus Aragon.

## Bangor Middle School Honor Roll 2nd Marking Period

- |  |   |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| <b>5th Grade</b><br>*Alexis Abbott<br>*Daniel Adams<br>Lilliana Alcauter<br>Sandra Barajas-Gutierrez<br>Violet Barber<br>Connor Brouwer<br>Kiera Canning<br>Kenzi Canseco<br>*Aaron Cervantes<br>*Nolan Crandall<br>Emma Darling<br>Gracie Eisner<br>*Annette Franco Aguirre<br>Yasmin Garcia<br>Amy Gomez<br>*Cloe Hull<br>Izabel Krumrey<br>Esther Lopez<br>Nicholas Markovich<br>John Martinez-Garcia<br>Alexandra Martinez-Murillo<br>Ariel Mitchell<br>Emma Munn<br>Abelardo Munoz<br>Jose Munoz<br>Vanessa Munoz<br>Indiya Newell<br>Breanna Noe<br>Lexie Olsen<br>Maribel Perez<br>Tomas Quinones<br>Raquel Reyes<br>Maya Rodriguez Reyes | <b>5th Grade continued</b><br>Kendra Russell<br>Briseida Sanchez<br>*Jessica Saucedo<br>Tyler Westbrooks<br>Summer Zink | <b>6th Grade</b><br>Juancarlos Garcia<br>Alex Gil<br>Alejandra Gutierrez<br>*Alex Hay<br>*Thomas Johnson<br>*Aleena Keh<br>Elley Levora<br>Leslie Luna<br>Vicki Mandujano<br>Jadynt Petersen<br>Nicholas Polk<br>Ariannabella Russell<br>Siney Santiago<br>Joanne Saucedo<br>Maria Soria<br>Alexandzandra Strampel<br>*Briana Sweeney<br>*Charles Walantyn<br>Christopher Walker<br>Brandyn Wheeler | <b>7th Grade</b><br>Noemi Arevalo<br>Lucas Artis<br>Genesis Dixon<br>*Sammy Glidden-Fry<br>*Jasmin Gomez<br>*Michael Hardester<br>*Carter Hull<br>Lucinda Johnson<br>*Kaitlyn Kite<br>*Keith Kueny<br>Olivia Kuiper<br>Littlefield, Amara<br>Cameron London<br>Jacqueline Mandujano<br>*Hannah Mellinger<br>*Abby Moench<br>Rolando Munoz<br>*Zachary Polk<br>*Leo Puga<br>Lupe Reyna<br>Brooklyn Rybarczyk<br>Hunter Saffell<br>Cecelia Salomon<br>Kali Schneider<br>A.J. Stigler<br>Casandra Villanueva | <b>8th Grade</b><br>Jesus Aragon<br>Tyler Brenne<br>*Andrew Cervantes<br>*Kayla Corzine<br>*Grace Ford<br>Jonathon Galvez<br>Jennifer Garcia<br>Jose Garcia<br>*Audrey Hay<br>Sarah Hicks<br>Hannah Householder<br>Hannah Jaco<br>Ke'arius Jennings<br>Lisandro Magana<br>Alvaro Martinez<br>Max McGuire<br>Krea Pittman<br>Jennifer Quinones<br>Jefferson Saucedo<br>Hailee Stone<br>Summer Torres<br>Erika Villegas<br>Ariel Wescott<br>Eric Wheeler |
|--|---|---|---|--|



## Bangor Middle School Project Based Learning

In Mr. Maynard's social studies class, the students in 6th grade are building cities trying to solve urbanization problems. The students discussed that some of these problems can range from air pollution, lack of jobs, disease, crime, etc. Part



of our focus in the middle school this year is to create project based lessons. The goal of this initiative is to demonstrate that project based learning engages and motivates students to take an approach to explore real world problems and challenges while acquiring a deeper knowledge of the problem at hand.

## Students of the Week

The Student of the Week program was established with the purpose of celebrating individual academic achievement as well as recognizing students who model superior character and citizenship. Grade level teachers select a student of their choice to identify these students. Students receive certain privileges throughout that week. These privileges range from having lunch with a teacher, being first in the lunch line, having their picture posted in the front of the school, and an end of the quarter breakfast with the administration, parents, and other



recipients. We would like to thank all of the students for their continued efforts in making Bangor Middle School a great place to learn!

## Bangor High School Community Scholarship Applications Available

By Wendy Tremblay, Bangor High School Principal

It's scholarship season!!! Seniors and Parents of future graduates, graduation is coming more quickly than you have ever dreamed. The list of things to accomplish prior to graduation may seem lengthy, but one of the most important items to accomplish is SCHOLARSHIPS. At this point in your child's senior year the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) should be complete. The FAFSA can provide families with an idea of what the out of pocket costs for college there will be for their child. Students are encouraged to now focus on scholarship applications. Scholarship deadlines vary, however the bulk are due prior to April 1st.

At Bangor High School each senior has an individual senior audit where they have an opportunity to review their plans after graduation, ask questions and obtain forms and applications. In addition each senior receives a folder of full of community scholarship opportunities. Our students are encouraged to apply to local scholarships because the chances of being awarded the scholarship is much greater than a national scholarship competition. Depending on the restrictions of a scholarship the award money can be applied to tuition, books, fees, or other college expenses.

Parents, I encourage you to make it a priority to sit down with your child

and review the scholarship applications that they have and determine which applications fit your child. Scholarships are not only based on impressive GPAs (Grade Point Averages) and class rankings, some scholarships look for particular fields of study, personal characteristics, or even a parent's employer.

- Here are some tips:
- Review the scholarship packet and determine which scholarships fit your/your child's needs
  - Review deadlines
  - Create a schedule to complete applications prior to the deadline and allow time to mail the applications in if necessary.
  - Complete the applications thoroughly and neatly. Don't forget to proof read!
  - If an essay is required be sure to write according to the instructions. Make sure to have someone else proof read the essay as well.
  - Make sure to provide all of the required documents as well such as transcript, estimated family contribution (EFC), letters of reference, resume, etc.
  - Request letters of reference in advance. Teachers and administrators want to write you a fabulous letter of reference, make sure that they have the time to do that by requesting early.

Keep focused and Good Luck as we sprint toward the end of your senior year!