



**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.

## South Walnut Elementary



### Help your elementary child prepare for the M-Step

Standardized tests have been used to measure student achievement and ability for many years. It's important to remember that one test doesn't represent a child's total abilities. A student may get high grades on their classwork, but be too anxious on test days to think clearly. To help your child succeed on tests you may want to (1) Make school a priority. Children who do well on tests tend to be the ones who study and finish homework on time. They also miss less school than other kids. (2) Develop healthy routines. Your child needs plenty of sleep and nutritious breakfast every day before school. (3) Communicate with teachers. Knowing how your child is doing throughout the year, pay attention to test details and asking your child's teacher questions can help. (4) Promote reading. Many tests require reading, so make sure your child reads often. (5) Reduce anxiety. As test day approaches, help your child stay positive and calm. If they are nervous, they can take deep breaths and tell them, "You can do this!" Remind them they have your love no matter what!

Elementary School Parents- March 2016

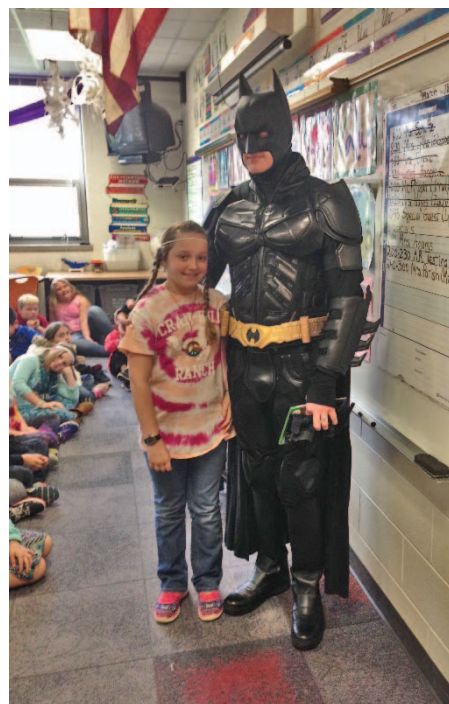


### Peace, Love and Books!

March is Reading Month



Staff members at South Walnut surprised the students on March 2nd by dressing up in their best Hippie attire to kick-off March is Reading Month! Students were very surprised when they came to school to find their teachers, counselor and principal all looking a little "strange!" "Our reading month is such an exciting time for our students" said, Mrs. Bitzer, Principal. The students look forward to a month of learning and fun with activities to keep us busy right up to Spring break. Some of the activities include two author visits; Leslie Helakowski and Alan St. Jean. Mr. St. Jean will include a 3 day writing Olympics for all grades to participate in, along with a Family Night, Turning off "screen nights," Trivia, Dress-Up days and Guest Reader Day are all part of the monthly fun.



**SPRING BREAK BEGINS ON MONDAY, APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup> AND RUNS THROUGH FRIDAY, APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>.**

## South Walnut Elementary

### Jump Rope for Heart

Karen Bitzer, Principal



Jump Rope for Heart is a national education and fundraising event sponsored by the American Heart Association and the Society of Health and Physical Educators. The event engages our students at South Walnut Elementary with jumping rope while empowering them to improve their own health and help other kids with heart-health issues. This program is a great way to satisfy the physical education standards in grades K-4.

Mrs. Coates has been organizing our program for the past 20 years! She has encouraged all of our students to participate and join in on developing heart-healthy habits while being physically active. Students learned how to jump rope, have fun and raise money for the American Heart Association. This year South Walnut has raised over \$4,000.00 for the Heart Association!!

### Students of the Month

For February



- Kindergarten: Jocelynn Little, Roe-Mya Reid, Kaylee Burris, Maricruz Gomez
- First Grade: Julissa Gamino, Marlee Nead, Emalee Krauss, Analia Diaz
- Second Grade: Breana Wines, Alana Nunez, Justin Hunt
- Third Grade: Adabella Ricco, Devon Gilliland, Vanessa Alcaraz
- Fourth Grade: Jesus Diaz, Jaziah Partee, Taylor Cease

## Bangor Middle School

### M-Step Approaches

By Dandron, Principal

As April approaches and Spring Break looms around the corner, I would like to take this opportunity to notify you of the upcoming Michigan Student Test for Educational Progress (M-Step). All students in grades 5-8 will be expected to complete this test. This test is designed to measure student growth effectively for today's students. Upon returning from Spring Break the 8th graders will begin this testing session. The following dates are important for students to be in attendance so that they will not have to "make - up" any test sessions:

- 8th grade - April 12th Social Studies (2 parts)  
 April 13th ELA (2 parts)  
 April 19th Math (2 parts)
- 5th grade - April 21st Social Studies (2 parts)  
 April 22nd ELA (2 parts)  
 April 26th Math (2 parts)
- 6th grade - May 1st ELA (2 parts)  
 May 5th Math (2 parts)
- 7th grade - May 10th Science (2 parts)  
 May 12th ELA  
 May 17th Math (2 parts)

### In Appreciation

Thank you to all the families that came out to support the middle school parent teacher conference night on February 18th. It was a great spring turnout as we had 60% of parents and families attend. Thank you for your continued support!

## Bangor Middle School

### Invitation To Attend Bangor Creates!

This Tuesday, March 29th middle school students will also have an opportunity to see their classwork on display at South Walnut Elementary as Bangor Public Schools presents Bangor Creates night. This event will take place from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. If you have the opportunity, please come on out and support your middle school student(s).

### Conservation!



Mr. Hoch's 6th grade science students recently learned about wildlife conservation. The Project based learning activity allowed the students to learn about the Blue bird and its limiting factors. The students completed this project by building their own Blue Bird nesting boxes.



### Three Compete In The Cloverleaf Regional Spelling Bee

On Friday, Feb. 26, three middle school students traveled to Lake Michigan College in Benton Harbor to participate in the Cloverleaf Regional Spelling Bee. Michael Hardester, Keith Kueny, and Steven Wesaw represented Bangor and competed with fifty-one other contestants from other schools from Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties. Keith was eliminated attempting to spell periscope and Steven struggled with folksiness. Michael made it through the first seven rounds, spelling words that included archipelago and subterfuge. Then he along with nine other students were sent to a room to take a vocabulary test. On this test were twenty-five vocabulary words with multiple choice answers. Michael and another student placed in the top two, so they returned to the stage to complete the competition.

After nine rounds, Michael misspelled participle, and his opponent spelled it correctly along with the word conspiracy, declaring the other student champion.

"I'm so very proud of Michael and his perseverance in preparing for this spelling bee. He spent most of Christmas vacation studying, and daily would go over words so he could win.

His grandmother is to be commended as well for all the work she did preparing him for the spelling bee. This is one my proudest moments being a teacher in Bangor." (Cathy Kimbler)



Steven Wesaw, Keith Kueny, and Michael Hardester

## Bangor Middle School

### Talent Show Headlines Activities For Students

As marking period 3 draws to an end, Bangor Middle School has been providing some engaging and enriching activities for students. The Annual BMS Talent show took place on Wednesday, March 16th. What a turn out this was. Middle school students were able to show case their hidden talents. These talents ranged from vocal to dancing to instrumentalist. Each category received a cash prize for all of the contestants. Claiming first prize in the instrumentalist category was Grace Ford (8th grade). Claiming first prize in the vocal category was Hunter Nichols (7th grade). Claiming first prize in the dance category was Abel Munoz (5th grade). This was a great experience for all students involved to participate and get involved within school activities. A special thank you to Mrs. Kimbler and Mrs. Davison for their time and preparation in another great Talent Show.



## Bangor High School

By Wendy Tremblay, Bangor High School Principal

On Monday, March 7th a small group of high school students attended the SAC Leadership conference. The leadership conference is an annual event conducted by the Southwestern Athletic Conference. Each district selects a male and a female student leader from grades 9, 10 and 11. The students attend the full day conference learning leadership skills, networking and exploring post-secondary options. Bangor High School selected the following students: Victoria London, Marshall Weber, Romeo Diaz, Madison McGuire, Savanna Nunn and Devon Nunn to represent BHS. The students also participated in a student exchange day with Watervliet High School. Students were paired with their grade level peer and traveled through classes to experience a day in a different district. The students then talk about the differences in the buildings and what improvements can be considered. It is a positive opportunity to create connections between students.



Dear Parents,  
 It's almost that time again - standardized testing is right around the corner. We will be administering our tests on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. You play an important part in helping students give their best performance on this important test. As you know, we have been busy preparing and reinforcing the skills necessary for students to demonstrate their learning. Even though this assessment is a snapshot—one single perspective - it is important that our students have every advantage to do their very best. One way that we support our students is through an alternate schedule to reduce the academic obligations during the testing window to allow adequate time for rest and recovery from testing. You can also support your child by insuring that they have a full night's rest, and planning ahead to avoid conflicts with appointments during this testing window.

Below is the testing schedule for the high school:

TEST FEST 2016	
<b>Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup></b> 12 <sup>th</sup> - Dismissed 11 <sup>th</sup> - SAT Testing 10 <sup>th</sup> - PSAT Testing 9 <sup>th</sup> - PSAT Testing No AM or PM Tech Center	<b>Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup></b> 12 <sup>th</sup> - Class as usual 11 <sup>th</sup> - Online M-Step 10 <sup>th</sup> - Class as usual 9 <sup>th</sup> - Class as usual AM Tech - 12 <sup>th</sup> grade only PM Tech - 11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> grade
<b>Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup></b> 12 <sup>th</sup> - Dismissed 11 <sup>th</sup> - ACT Work Keys 10 <sup>th</sup> - Class as usual 9 <sup>th</sup> - Class as usual No AM or PM Tech Center	<b>Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup></b> 12 <sup>th</sup> - Class as usual 11 <sup>th</sup> - Dismissed if had perfect attendance on 12 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup> 10 <sup>th</sup> - Class as usual 9 <sup>th</sup> - Class as usual AM and PM Tech - 12 <sup>th</sup> only