

gymnasium. Students' projects will be judged individually from 4:30-6:30 and then the Science Fair will be open to the public from 6:30-7:00 PM. The top twenty projects will be entered at the Regional Science Fair in Mankato on Saturday, May 3, 2009. The Elementary Science Fair is in its nineteenth year of existence.

Students work after school in the library and the computer lab to prepare their projects for the public fair. The sixth graders mentor the younger students. They are very busy during January and February preparing for the science fair. Parents are also a major part of this project. They work closely with their child to help them with their experiment.

Mrs. Anderson would like to extend a big thanks to the Education Foundation for their support. They have approved funds to be used so that students do not have to pay their individual registration fee for the Regional Science Fair. The Education Foundation will pick up that expense.

"The students decide what project to do," said Mrs. Diane Anderson, Science Club advisor and sixth grade teacher at Blooming Prairie. Again this year Anderson will have all of her science students in sixth grade participate in the event. Students projects ranged from experimenting with plants, electricity, soil, energy, eggs, magnets, senses, bacteria, and much more.

Participants will be judged using seven categories which included; scientific thought, creative ability, overall understanding of their project, clarity in communicating their procedures and data, dramatic value in their design, and technical skills which include the use of written material done on the computer.

It takes a community of teachers to help our students prepare for the Science Fair. This year the Science Fair has two advisors, Mrs. Rachel Harberts and Mrs. Diane Anderson. Mrs. Sorenson, Mrs. Mehske, and Mrs. Morem, also volunteer their time after school to help students with their projects. If you would be interested in judging the students' projects for this event you can contact Mrs. Anderson or Mrs. Harberts at the elementary school.

## **Technology improvements continue in the district**

### **Marc Patton, Technology**

The Blooming Prairie Elementary School has gone through many technological improvements since the beginning of the school year. The staff members that are responsible for the improvements are Jolynn Koster, Jan Gorath, and myself, Marc Patton. We have made great strides to improve the students' network accounts and for the first time all teachers now have network accounts too. All students and teachers are connecting to a new server computer. What all this means is that we can access our documents from any computer and we can execute technology improvements through the network.

If you have a laptop computer at home or work, then you are quite familiar with the freedom and mobility it has to offer for your computing experience. The teachers now have that same mobility with the way they teach your children and perform their daily work. Each teacher can use their laptop for mobility in the classroom, throughout the school building, and off school grounds. The previously used teacher computers were distributed throughout the classrooms for the students to use and we were able to replace the ten-year-old computers located in the upstairs computer lab. The upstairs lab was also rewired to increase the speed of the Internet and network connections.

Have you heard the first and fourth graders talk about the interactive white boards, Active Boards, in Mrs. Harberts' and Mr. Harvey's classroom? The interactive white boards allow the teachers to display anything that appears on their computer and manipulate the computer on the white board. The boards come with a fantastic presentation software program that was created for the student's interest in mind. This teaching tool is a great way to keep up with today's 21<sup>st</sup> century children. The students can easily relate to this technology and they are eager to participate in their education.

The sixth grade students are currently working hard on the computers with researching and putting together their project for the science fair. Previously at the beginning of the school year they reviewed and improved their typing skills with Mavis

Beacon. Recently they have concluded with the Microsoft Power Point presentations for social studies class.

Good keyboarding skills are necessary at the start of the sixth grade school year, so that is why the fifth graders will be working hard at this skill throughout the year. The most recent software that they have been using is called Chuck Wagon Bill. This program is great for developing their language arts skills. They are also improving their problem solving skills with Carmen San Diego USA. The fourth graders are really rocking with their newly developed typing skills on Mavis Beacon. It really shows as they type their poetry on Microsoft Word. I teach one other grade level and that is third grade. The third graders are basically having fun while improving their mathematical skills on Gold Medal Math and Treasure Math Storm.

When it comes to computer class, the children seem to enjoy learning new technology and developing skills for their classroom education.

## Title I News

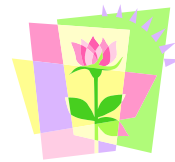
The new year started off with a deep freeze and put Aimsweb assessing on hold. It is now completed and the data collected will be discussed with classroom teachers and used to make adjustments in Title 1 services to best meet the learning needs for each student. Parents will be notified if their child has a change in services by phone or letter. Any parent/guardian with concerns or questions can feel free to contact the classroom teacher or myself, Diane Pfeiffer Title I Lead teacher.

Spring Family Fun Night will be sometime the end of March or beginning of April. More information will follow in the weeks and months ahead. There will be updates on the Title I program, games/activities, prizes for all who attend, and snacks. This is a great night for the entire family and the best part is – it's FREE!

The students in grades K-2 are using a new program called *Road to Reading*. It is the follow up series to *Road to the Code*, which the students used this fall. It is a five-step process focusing on phonics, high frequency words, writing, reading, and phonemic awareness. The kids seem excited to use the materials and read the new books. A special "Thank You" goes out the Education Foundation for providing the funding to the Title I program to continue providing updated materials so our students can do their best learning.

Conferences are coming soon and I am available to meet with parents. Please stop by that evening to visit with me and share any concerns or achievements in regard to your child. As always thank you parents for your continued support of the Title I program. When we all work together the results can be amazing.

Diane Pfeiffer  
Title 1 Lead Teacher



## **SCHOOL HEALTH NEWS**

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**Kay Zellmer, School Nurse**

### **Diagnosis Notification:**

The Blooming Prairie School District Health Office is required to alert the state if any student has the following diagnoses(to list a few): Influenza, Chicken Pox, and Pertussis (whooping cough).

Thanks for your assistance in helping track disease patterns for our state!

It is always appreciated when parents inform the school what illness their child has, as some diagnoses potentially impact a larger student population. For example, monitoring a rash for changes is essential should that rash be scabies, ringworm, or impetigo. A confidential message can be left at the following number for the nurse: **Elementary-507/583-6615-ext-225 or High School-507/583-4426 ext-229.**

Just a reminder...A child diagnosed with pink eye or strep throat needs to be medicated for 24 hours prior to returning to school.

If your child has a fever at bedtime, it is advised to keep them home the following morning. The analgesic medication effect ends mid-morning, and then we have a child with a fever who has exposed the entire classroom. Please think about the SPREAD of germs when debating sending an ill child to school. Other parents will thank you!

### **GERMS!**

Yep! Germs! Hand washing is such an important task to emphasize with your child! Hands transmit unseen germs to our eyes, mouth and skin. Good hand washing helps protect against pink eye, colds, and viral and bacterial transmission of germs. By covering your cough (with your SLEEVE and NOT your hand) and washing germs away, illness in your home and school will decrease! Cheers to water, friction, and soap!



### **THANKS TO MAIN STREET DENTAL!!!!!!**

THANKS MAIN STREET DENTAL!!! The Blooming Prairie Elementary School would like to express a special thanks to Main Street Dental, of Blooming Prairie, for donating \$350 toward the weekly fluoride for 356 students during the 2008-09 school year! Cheers to this business for their help in promoting excellent dental health in our community! An anonymous family donated the remaining money (\$350).

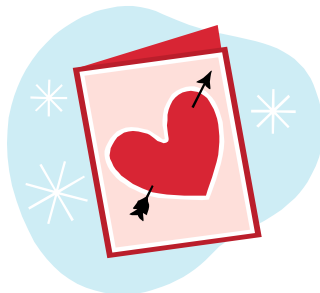
**ALSO...our Tree of Warmth** is still going strong at BPES! Thanks to the organizations and families who have generously donated to keep our students warm this winter! Thanks also for the wonderful snow pants, coats, and boots donated!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

### **\* GOT YOUR SHOTS? \***

The MN State guidelines require students immunization records be current PRIOR to starting kindergarten and 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Please prepare and plan ahead!!!

### **2<sup>nd</sup> VARICELLA IMMUNIZATION- PARENTS PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

The State of Minnesota Department of Health has notified schools that the second Varicella shot will **be mandatory for kindergarten and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students for the 2009-10 year.** The shot series must be complete PRIOR to starting school for the 2009-10 school year.



PTA Meeting Minutes & Agenda

January 13, 2009

I. Opening

The meeting was called to order by Tara Gimbel, Interim PTA Co-President at 6:34 pm. The meeting was started with introductions of present PTA members and board members. There was an amendment in the meeting agenda to discuss the elementary carnival at 6:40 instead of 7:15.

II. Secretary's Report

Beth Krebs motioned to accept the November minutes and Jessie Christianson seconded. All members present approved. Motion accepted.

III. Treasurer's Report

Ranell Kittelson presented the treasurer's report and noted the current balance in the checkbook. Jennifer Wayne motioned to accept the report and Nicki Bishop seconded. All members present approved. Motion accepted.

IV. New Business

A. Elementary Carnival

Representatives from the Blooming Prairie FFA expressed interest in taking over the School Carnival. Bill Rinkenberger will be meeting with the student council to discuss how to move forward.

B. Fall fundraiser

Mega party and the reward limo ride and lunch has tentatively been scheduled for Thurs. Feb 26<sup>th</sup>. We will try to avoid religion conflicts. Chip Shoppe also wants to give a limo ride to the kids that helped out with unloading the truck.

C. Valentines for Soldiers

This year the students will be making Valentines for Veterans in the cities and our local nursing home.

D. I Love to Read Month

Douglas Woods is scheduled for Wed. Feb 11<sup>th</sup>. Books will be available for students to purchase. Thanks to Joan Hagen for arranging this opportunity.

E. Talent Show

Music Coordinator is still needed for the Talent Show. Without a volunteer for music, the Talent Show will have to be cancelled. Contact Diane Pfeiffer or Kristi Fiebiger if interested.

F. MCA Snack Coordination

Diane Pfeifer is chair for this committee. We will table this until the March meeting.

G. BP Ed Foundation

Tara Gimbel made a motion for the PTA to donate items to be auctioned off at the BP Ed Foundation Auction and Michelle Vigland seconded. All members present agreed. Motion accepted.

There was a tie for the classroom with the most representation tonight. Twenty five dollars will be awarded to Amy Bohn's classroom and \$25 will be awarded to Lisa Bruns' classroom. Thank you for all who attended.

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm. Mary Worke motioned to adjourn and Beth Krebs seconded. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 10 at 6:30 in the Elementary Library.

# 50 Ways to Get Children to Love Reading!

1. Make a love of reading be your most important education goal for your children. Children who love to read will excel in everything they do
2. Show your children that you value reading, don't just tell them. Let them see you reading
3. Make reading a daily activity
4. Take outings to the bookstore
5. Give books as gifts
6. Always have time to read with them or help them with their reading
7. Have a wide variety of books on hand, as well as newspapers, magazines and comics.
8. Find books that your children are interested in
9. Surprise your children with books about their favorite animal, hobby or passion
10. Join the Book of the Month Club and let them receive a new book every month
11. Create their own little 'library' in their room on their own bookshelf. Give them a sense of ownership



## For Preschoolers

1. Take your children to the library often while they are young and eager to go
2. On special occasions, take your children to the bookstore and let them pick their favorite book
3. Buy lots of cheap books at garage sales and flea markets
4. Spend more time (and money) on books than on Disney movies
5. Make read aloud time fun for your child
6. Read whatever books your child wants to read
7. Narrate the story with voices and action, get into it and have fun!
8. Wrap up quickly when your child loses interest
9. Let your child participate as much as possible- let her finish the sentence, read the pictures, take turns reading, etc.
10. Plan play activities that involve books- picnics, crafts, science projects, kits.
11. Act out favorite stories and characters from books
12. Let them 'read' stories to their dolls or younger siblings
13. Play bookstore or library
14. Do projects, recipes, crafts and activities from books
15. Play reading games- cross of shopping lists, put name tags around the house, play school
16. Have a reading time after meals
17. Be aware of how your child learns best- visual, auditory, or hands on
18. Do a reading night with popcorn and blankets, instead of movie night
19. Don't do any activities that your child doesn't enjoy. Learning should be fun!
20. Don't buy books that your child isn't interested in and make them read them
21. After your child learns to read continue to read books to them above their reading level



## Elementary School to Teenagers

1. Encourage reading a book series
2. Continue to encourage and participate in library use
3. Don't schedule so many activities that your children don't have time to read
4. Continue to spend money on books as well as all their other activities
5. Try reading plays aloud (and acting them out)
6. Have a quiet, comfortable reading area in your home. Make it the most comfortable room in the house
7. Fathers, spend time reading with your kids
8. Keep books and magazines in the car
9. Don't make your kids turn the lights out at night, let them stay up and read!
10. Only own one television, and never put it in your children's room
11. Cancel your cable subscription and buy books instead
12. Don't force them to read something they don't like
13. Send teenagers to the bookstore with money to buy any book they like
14. Allow them to choose their own books from the Book of the Month Club
15. Read a book together at the same time and discuss it
16. Encourage them to write and share what they read about. Do 'book reports'
17. Keep perspective. Reading should be the number one educational goal, but not the only goal
18. "It is impossible to sit down to write if you have not stood up to live"- Emerson



(Posted in How To, Resources)

FAMOUS AUTHORS' FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

**ZED Creative Writing Contest  
Honorable Mention Award  
Isaac Baker – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

The Sign

I was walking down the sidewalk when I heard an evil laugh. It was a full moon. It was Halloween and I was collecting the pounds of candy I needed to survive. I was thinking of all the scary monsters there were. Zombies, phantoms, vampires, bats, oh my! I heard a scream. It was coming from the old house.

Rumor has it it's haunted. But it was abandoned so no one could confirm it was haunted. I began to walk towards the haunted house. Well, I wasn't sure if it was haunted. I saw the old house on a hill. The moon was behind it. The cemetery was with it. I saw a sign at the gate. It said: stay out! I turned away to make sure nothing was behind me.

I looked back. The sign now said: Beware of Ghost! Yeah right, I thought. There's no such thing. I creaked open the gate and went in. BAM! The gate slammed shut behind me. Well, at least I think there's no such thing as ghosts. As I was walking up the path I heard a howl. That could be a werewolf. I thought.

Just then something big rushed behind me. I got real scared. I ran up to the house opened the door, went in then slammed it shut. My heart was pounding. I took out a juice box I got and chugged it down. That calmed me down.

I heard the evil laugh again. It was coming from upstairs. I should catch this on tape, I thought. I went upstairs. One of the doors was blowing open and closed. Violent! That's weird. There wasn't any wind outside. As the door blew open I rushed in.

Immediately I wished I didn't. There was a huge ghost in there! The ghost was blowing the door. The ghost laughed. Mwahahahaha! The ghost chased after me. I blew through the door. I never looked back except to get my candy. Then I ran as fast as I could away.

The End