

SOUTH LYON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

GOOD NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2011



BARTLETT ELEMENTARY

- Fourth graders used road maps, globes, world maps, and desk maps to learn about relative and absolute location. Discovering how to use latitude and longitude in a grid system was both challenging and fun. Check out your absolute location on Google Earth! It will be shown in degrees, minutes, and seconds. Students commented was very precise and very cool!
- In September, many Bartlett students chose to have a reading buddy from another class. Students paired up, practiced their reading skills, and shared the love of reading with one another!
- The third graders started their Animal Study unit in Science. The students were responsible for caring for Dwarf African Frogs, Fiddler Crabs, and Millipedes. Students created lifelike habitats for the animals . They had a blast!
- Kindergartners worked hard to learn the classroom rules and about being a good friend. We read books that highlighted how we may be different in some ways, but alike in others as part of our social studies curriculum. We are learning how to be a class family!
- During Curriculum Night, Bartlett students met in the gym to make grade level banners. Students enjoyed having the opportunity to be creative outside of the classroom!

BRUMMER ELEMENTARY

- On Friday, September 16, 2011, we celebrated our Second Annual Opening of School Picnic at lunchtime. Parents, brothers, and sisters all joined us outside for a nice, cool fall picnic. Dr. Brun served hotdogs, along with chips, watermelon, and other treats. What a great way to begin the school year!
- Our two Open Houses/Curriculum Nights were held on September 13, for kindergarten through second grade families and on September 28, for third through fifth grade families. The students met in the gym at 7 p.m. and attended an activity while their parents participated in a Curriculum Night presentation put on by the teachers. At 7:30 p.m., the students returned to the classrooms to take their parents on a tour of the school. We all met at Dairy Queen after!
- The American flags were waving at the entrance to school on Friday, September 16, to help us celebrate Constitution Day. Dr. Brun read a wonderful story about a famous American who became very successful due to his hard work and dedication, something that every person can strive for! All of the students and staff were dressed in red, white, and blue, to show our own patriotism.
- On Friday, October 23rd, we hosted our annual CHEERS Breakfast to welcome new members to the Brummer Community and to identify the volunteer opportunities available to our parents. Approximately fifty parents were in attendance, with many new parents learning about the different activities offered to their children throughout

the year. We could never provide the support we give our students without the CHEERS volunteers.

- Girls On The Run! We have fifteen third, fourth, and fifth grade girls that have started a new club to help them stay fit and healthy. They are meeting every Monday and Thursday from 4:15- 6:45 p.m. in the gym, for ten weeks. They begin their session by doing warm up activities, stretching, and then a workout period. Afterwards is a cool-down stretching period. Our two parent coaches are Susan Dziadzio and Gina Mac. Special thanks to these two dedicated women.

DOLSEN ELEMENTARY

- Dolsen Elementary developed a common language and common set of expectations for all students at Dolsen. Our new school rules allow us to work together by caring for ourselves, others, and our school, so that all students can learn. Our new school rules are:

We Are Dolsen

We take care of ourselves

We take care of each other

We take care of our school

We are ready to learn!

- Dolsen Elementary installed SMART Boards over the summer in all K-5 classrooms. These interactive whiteboards were purchased with carryover money. Staff members were trained prior to the start of the school year, and will continue to attend professional development throughout 2011-12. These interactive whiteboards will be used as an instructional tool to enhance student engagement while aiding in students' ability to interact proficiently with technology.
- During the month of September, students participated in the annual Walk- A- Thon. Students walked and/or ran during their regularly scheduled physical education time and during their recess time to accumulate as many laps as possible. By walking or running, students raised money for their classroom and for Dolsen. The culminating event for this great cause was a family walk night around the Dolsen Track followed by a family picnic. Go Dolphins!
- I am pleased to announce that Dolsen Elementary began an exciting new choir ensemble for our 3rd-5th grade students during the 2011-2012 academic year! This special performance group includes students who enjoy singing and taking on musical challenges. This group will perform repertoire that makes use of part-singing and harmony. In August, our choir members enjoyed our first social event – a choir “meet-and-greet” at Pinz Bowling Center! We are looking forward to a musical year at Dolsen!
- Dolsen students began working on projects to create a mural. Each student will design art work based on a nature theme to coincide with the plants, flowers, and insects or

animals that are in the Dolsen courtyard. When the art work is complete, it will be transferred to tiles that will be installed as a mural at Dolsen.

HARDY ELEMENTARY

- We kicked off a new school year by meeting our new principal, Mr. Heitsch at milk and cookies welcome night.
- The 4th grade students continued their efforts to help Hardy “Go Green,” by running a recycling program. The students collected and will continue to collect recycled paper from each classroom on Friday’s this school year.
- Mrs. Thomas and Ms. Madaleno helped new kindergarten students transition into Hardy by fostering classroom community by routines and procedures and the use of morning meetings.
- Curriculum nights offered families of students of all grades to come up and visit their child’s classroom and to learn about the expectations for the upcoming school year. While the parents were listening about curriculum, the students enjoyed a cookie and time on the playground.
- 4th graders are actively learning about eco systems. After collaborating in groups they built a terrarium, as well as an aquarium. Students have been observing and recording how their eco systems are thriving on a daily basis.

KENT LAKE ELEMENTARY

- The first all school assembly for the 11-12 school year was held on September 10. Mrs. Dancer not only introduced all staff members and new students, but she also explained Kent Lake’s Bullyproofing Program, “Be a Buddy, Not a Bully!”. Mrs. Little introduced a schoolwide competition to define a buddy. All definitions will be displayed in the hallways and one schoolwide definition will be chosen. Mrs. Dancer asked the students to think about the Kent Lake Song and share words that relate to a Buddy! Many students offered to share words like “respectful,” “caring,” “sharing,” “truthful,” “choices,” etc. Mrs. Dancer explained to the students that they are pledging to be a Buddy each time they sing the Kent Lake Song. The assembly ended with the whole school singing the Kent Lake Song.
- The first graders in Mrs. O’Neil’s class start off each new school year by creating a warm, safe classroom environment. The students are shown a paper cut-out of a heart, then are told to say something unkind. Each time something unkind is said, the heart wrinkles a bit, and ends up crumbled into a ball. The class examines what happened to the heart as a result of their choice of words. The students then say kind words to the heart, and with each kind statement, the heart slowly opens back. However, the heart has a permanent “wrinkle” from all of the unkind words. The students write a promise to “never put a wrinkle” in anyone’s heart,” then sign their name to the heart. The heart is displayed in the class, and is referred to all year long. You will often hear the student’s

use words like “That wrinkled my heart” when solving conflicts with others. It’s a very visual way to demonstrate the importance of being kind towards others.

- Hip, hip, hooray for the first graders at Kent Lake! On Friday , September 16, 2011, first graders in Mrs. O’Neil’s, Mrs. Gutierrez’, and Mrs. Breier’s classes celebrated Constitution Day by participating in a very patriotic activity. After reading about the American flag, the classes made a large flag to hang in the main hallway. The flag was decorated with students’ handprints (for the stripes) and fist prints (for the stars). Students also colored an American flag to take home. This activity was special because the students were able to work together as a first grade community. Students participated in being a “good citizen” by showing their patriotism which is the current unit of study in Social Studies. Good job first graders!
- Kent Lake Fourth Graders celebrated Constitution Day by using interactive websites on our Promethean Board. Students took turns clicking on questions and choosing politicians of that time period (primary sources) to answer from various points of view. Animated characters spoke with passion about the decisions they made regarding the constitution. Students took delight in the dialect and old fashioned clothing of the 1700’s. Students were then treated to School House Rock’s video rendition of the Preamble. The favorite website of the lesson was one which involved the Bill of Rights. Students were able to click and remove various freedoms and see the immediate consequence to a simulated main street that could be any town in America. For example, signs of expression (Freedom of Speech) were immediately deleted from windows and businesses. At one point, a police car pulled up and several people were arrested just for meeting together (Right to Assemble). Students not only enjoyed manipulating this small town’s rights, but also learned how precious these rights we often take for granted really are to us.
- Mrs. Hilton’s class started off the year creating a positive classroom environment. Their policy is a “Bully Free Zone” and their motto is aligned with the school of “Be a Buddy, not a Bully!” First, the read the book, Have You Filled a Bucket Today? After they read the book, the kids discussed a time when someone was a bully to them at school and filled their bucket, and they wrote their example on a picture of a bucket. The kids then worked in cooperative groups (with people they did not know very well in the classroom) to learn about one another and share experiences about when they were buddies to someone else. While having their discussion they filled out Venn Diagrams about what their similarities and differences. This was the kids were able to branch out and meet new people so they felt like they had more buddies in their classroom. Finally, Mrs. Hilton hung the buckets and Venn Diagrams in the hallway to remind everyone how they are all buddies and bucket fillers.

SALEM ELEMENTARY

- 91 students completed their summer math packets and have earned the monthly games lunch reward with Mr. Metcalf.
- Over 90% of the students who participated in the summer reading program, read their books over the summer and returned then to Salem!
- Students in all grade levels are working with the interactive white boards in a variety of subject areas.
- Students in Mrs. Opfermann's class were excited to share "summer stories" and begin a new year of learning.
- The reading recovery students enjoyed creating personalized photo books which prove to be very motivational.
- In music, kindergarten students learned how to keep a steady beat, first grade students learned how to use their "inner hearing" and 5th grade students used instruments to create three-layered pieces.
- Kindergarteners in Mrs. Anderson's have been working diligently on learning and following routine routines independently. Additionally, kindergartners have shown that they are great storytellers. Students are practicing telling their stories with their voices & with pictures on paper.
- First graders are acclimated to going to school for five full days. Students in Mr. Todd's and Mr. Descavish's classes have gotten familiar with math workshop. Students are also learning how to write stories by sketching a picture first and then adding words to match their picture.
- Second graders In Mrs. Boynton's and Mrs. Hass' class have dived right into reader's and writer's workshop. Additionally, as part of their science unit, Buzzing a Hive, they tasted honey and drank juice through a straw, just like a bee uses its proboscis. Finally, in math, students have learned about place value in that based upon every digit's position, it has a special value.
- Third graders in Mrs. Rentz's and Mrs. Smother's classes have learned what math workshop looks like. In science, students tracked phases of the moon with their moon watcher logs. Finally, students worked on hitting a grand slam with their constructed responses by learning the SLAMS rules for open ended questions.
- Fourth graders in Mrs. Pozniak's and Mrs. Meagher's classes were excited to experience the commons as they are now part of the upper elementary wing at Salem. Fourth graders analyzed MEAP writing anchor papers and then scored them according to the MEAP rubric . They learned a great lesson on what a good writing piece looks like.
- Fifth graders in Mrs. Enblom's and Mrs. Pendleton's class were excited to receive their math books and to start their first unit. Also, in science, fifth graders have learned some of the basic skills of an electrician as part of their first unit of study. Students learned how to make simple circuits and how to test them.

SAYRE ELEMENTARY

- Sayre kicked off the school year with the annual circle ceremony on the first day of school. Students sang the national anthem, welcomed teachers and new students, and heard peers speak about what they were looking forward to this year and give advice about doing well in school. Students gave a big cheer for Sayre before heading back to their classrooms!
- On the first Friday of the school year, Sayre hosted an Ice Cream Social for families to visit with each other and catch up after the summer months. Information about various school activities, spirit wear, and no-cost fundraisers was also available.
- Sayre hosted two curriculum nights to inform parents about the grade level content expectations their children would be working on this year. Instructional maps were available, and teachers presented information about grading, communications, Habits of Mind, and what parents could do at home to help their children succeed.
- During a team-building activity, Sayre's 5th graders played a game that incorporated getting into groups by using knowledge of factors, products, and multiples.
- Sayre second graders were busy as bees! In September, they learned about honeybees and their life cycles. They also established their routines for reading and writing workshops and are ready to become great readers and authors! In math, they learned math games that show different ways to make ten.
- In physical education, students in grades 2-5 completed their beginning-of-year fitness testing. They use the results to create goals to improved their fitness levels during the school year.
- In music class, Sayre 1st graders learned the national anthem. They learned the meaning of all those "big words," which were also celebrated on Constitution Day on September 16!
- Sayre 4th graders built their terrariums during science in their study of Ecosystems. Isopods and crickets were added, also!
- Third graders planted their Wisconsin Fast Plants. In September, they begin to observe the four stages of the plant life cycle.
- Sayre 1st graders were busy during math workshop, as they practiced the routines and structure of the workshop approach. In September, they explored patterns while utilizing manipulatives.
- Kindergarten students talked about trees in September, as they began to learn about an apple tree's life cycle. A trip to the Plymouth Apple Orchard will be taken in October so that they can see the real thing!
- Resource room teachers were busy in September. Mrs. Springer joined two 5th grade classrooms for math and writing instruction. Mrs. Taylor's students practiced their reading fluency by revisiting their favorite stories.

CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Choir students learn to breath deep and low so they can sing with strength and control. While lying on the floor, students focus their attention on their diaphragm and can easily put their air where they will be able to use it most effectively. Diaphragmatic breathing happens most naturally while lying down. Try it yourself! (see Choir)
- All Social Studies classes took part in lessons discussing the signing of the Constitution which took place September 17th, 1787. Being one of the most important and influential events in American History, it established the many rights and freedoms “We the People” enjoy today. Classes made posters, put mixed versions of the Preamble in order, and other activities to celebrate this special day. (see Constitution Day)
- Seventh and eighth grade students new to CMS were invited to a New Student Luncheon on Friday, September 16th. This was a chance for them to meet several important people at Centennial as well as provide a way for them to get to know each other. CMS counselors worked with Monica Mapley and CHEERS to provide food and drink for the luncheon. After introductions and lunch. students participated in several "getting to know you" activities. Although starting our quiet, as the activities progressed, you could see students gain a positive self-esteem and begin to feel comfortable with each person in the room. This successful event also gave attending CMS staff a chance to learn more about the students. (see New Student Luncheon)
- The Centennial sixth grade health students started the new year off by eating a nutritious breakfast at school on Thursday, September 22nd. They learned that breakfast is important to get your metabolism started for the day. Students compared the nutritional value of many different foods and learned that looks and taste can be deceiving. Good eating habits and choices made today can affect future health. (see Health Class Breakfast)
- Beginning last year, students at MMS and CMS began taking a Learning Styles Inventory in Career Cruising. The results indicate whether a student is an auditory learner, visual learner, or a tactile learner and describe how that student best receives information. The report also includes study tips for students to use when information is presented in ways other than their primary learning style. The information is saved in each student’s Educational Development Plan and can be referenced at any time.

MILLENNIUM MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Millennium Middle School held Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 15, 2011. We had an excellent turnout with over 500 parents attending!
- The Middle School Student Code of Conduct was presented to all Millennium students on September 8, 2011. Assistant Principal, Mr. Darrell Plummer, videotaped several teachers explaining the most important sections of the code. The teachers were very creative in their presentations. The videotape was then shown to the student body.

- The MMS Counseling Department welcomed back Mrs. Diane Bardsley as the 7th and 8th grade counselor. Mr. Jason Gilders is the new 6th grade counselor. Mr. Gilders teaches 7th grade Social Studies in the morning and then moves into his counseling role in the afternoon. We are very fortunate to have him at MMS! The MMS Counseling Department had a busy start to the new school year! MMS welcomed many new students. The New Student Lunch was held on September 23 for all students (approx. 40) new to SLCS. Students enjoyed pizza and salad while letting the counselors know how they were adjusting to their new school. Mr. Gilders and Mrs. Bardsley completed the Anti-bullying presentations for all 6th grade students. The presentation reviewed bullying definitions, explained the No Tolerance for bullying at MMS and how to report bullying at MMS. Sixth grade students were very good listeners.
- Millennium Math Mania was Friday, September 23. The 6th, 7th and 8th grade students participated in the mania during the first fifteen minutes of every hour. The 6th and 7th grade students focused on fractions. These two grade levels reviewed equivalent fractions, writing mixed numbers as improper fractions, and adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions. The 8th grade students focused on order of operations, slope formula, writing an equation in slope intercept form and graphing a line in slope intercept form.
- 6th Grade Industrial Technology Education: These students made and flew paper airplanes with a special emphasis placed on accuracy in measurement and how drag affected the flight of their planes. They also completed a measurement activity using both the U.S. Customary System and Metric System of measurement.
- 8th Grade Industrial Technology Education: These students also completed a measurement activity by sketching, measuring and dimensioning 10 different objects in the classroom or laboratory. They studied the history of rocketry and how Newton's Laws of Motion define how rockets launch and fly. This has led to the construction and launching of water bottle rockets.

SOUTH LYON HIGH SCHOOL

- The 3rd annual Red Out was a huge success! Coach Mark Thomas started the tradition in memory of his wife whom he lost to a heart attack three years ago. One of the incentives that helped t-shirt sales was the Red Out assembly. Any student who wore red to school on Friday, September 16, was part of forming large SLHS letters on the football field near the end of the school day. The red carried over to the football stadium that night, both in the stands and on the field and sidelines. It was a very proud day for SLHS staff and students, and we're looking forward to continuing the tradition for years to come.
- MCBA Field Day...Michigan Competitive Band Association Field Day was held on Sept 10th. Six marching bands attended. (Clio, West Bloomfield, SCS South Lake, Lakeland, Carmen-Ainsworth, South Lyon) Bands performed their competitive marching show for

this season, where critiqued by judges as at a competition and then band had the chance to perform their show again with the recommended changes.

- About 450 athletes braved the rain Saturday to complete in the 20th running of the South Lyon High School and South Lyon East High School cross country teams' Witch's Hat Run. Race director Scott Smith reported that the rain was pouring down as his team of volunteers began their set up of the race in the early morning hours, but this did not dissuade them from putting on great series of races that included a half-mile fun run, a mile fun run, a 5K run, a 5k competitive walk, a 5k non-competitive walk, and a 10K run. the South Lyon High School band played pre-race songs, and the South Lyon High School choir performed the National Anthem.
- South Lyon High School P.R.I.D.E. (an acronym for positive relationships intended to deliver excellence) has been in full force the last few months. This year, new training and coordination has taken place.
- Principal Chad Scaling restructured the PRIDE program last spring including a merger of the existing program started in 2010 with a well known Link Crew program for kids across the nation who are working to improve the atmosphere of their schools. The addition of the Link Crew structure allowed coordinating teachers and also students to receive more in-depth leadership training before putting together events for the school. Teacher coordinators Todd Goshorn, Jenna Mate, Kate Salvadore, and Vasili Tsavalias worked over the summer to initiate the newly structured program with over 85 student mentors and around 300 freshmen. Principal Chad Scaling ran two full training days for mentors over the summer to prepare for Freshmen Orientation.
- Students in Sculpture class created Marisol Box Sculpture based off the artist Marisol Escobar. She is a Venezuelan, and was raised in Paris. She learned creating figures by incorporating assemblage parts of salvaged materials. Students looked at examples and choose modern day figures. There are group photos of students and their sculptures.

SOUTH LYON EAST HIGH SCHOOL

- Congratulations to Olivia Richvalsky who was accepted at U of M as a preferred walk-on for the softball team next fall. As a preferred walk-on she is guaranteed a spot on the team. Way to go, Olivia, and best of luck to her.
- What a great homecoming we had this year, with a vibrant assembly, wonderful parade and Taste of Homecoming activities following the parade, and then a huge, energetic crowd at the football game. We had the largest Homecoming Dance turnout since we opened South Lyon East, nearly 600 students. It was a great evening!!! Thank you to Sarah Athey, our student Government, and all the teachers who helped out and made this a memorable Homecoming for our students.
- South Lyon East is proud to announce that Michael Anderson was crowned Homecoming King and Leah Nonis was crowned Homecoming Queen at half-time of the football game. Congratulations to both!

- This year's SLE homecoming parade was a huge success. The rain held off long enough for all participants and viewers to enjoy it. South Lyon and Lyon Township firefighters participated as well as Panther football players and cheerleaders. Despite the poor weather, the attendance was larger than any other year. This year's float competition was won by the sophomore class. Congratulations to the Sophomores!