



# The Bulldog

## SPOTLIGHT



### YALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November/December 2010 Edition Vol 26 No. 2

#### All Day Kindergarten a Big Success

Last year Avoca Elementary piloted an All Day Kindergarten program. Based upon the outstanding success that was experienced as a result of the pilot, the decision was made to provide the same program district-wide. The Board of Education has supported this move which allows students more opportunity to focus on academic "building blocks". Additionally, children are able to assimilate to the school environment and are provided a structured setting for social acclimation and play. Our staff has been very driven to ensure that the best possible experience has been provided to our students to begin their life-long learning journey.

#### New Teachers at Yale Schools

New teachers at Yale Schools include from left to right: Tregg Liebler, Yale Junior High; Garnett Kohler, Yale High School; Kelsie Prevost, Yale Elementary Long Term Substitute and Rebecca Setera, Yale Junior High Long Term Substitute. We welcome them to Yale Schools.

#### Breakfast Challenge Award Winners

Yale Public Schools were recently recognized by the Michigan Department of Education and the United Dairy Industry of Michigan for meeting the Michigan School Breakfast Challenge set by State Superintendent Mike Flanagan. His challenge to districts was to increase breakfast participation 50% district-wide by May 2010. Through the innovation of Ms. Guttowsky, Yale Elementary Principal, the YES staff, and that of Louanne Warner, Director of Food Service, and her staff, Yale Elementary was able to provide free breakfast to all students directly in the classroom. The cost of breakfast is covered through a federal program and is not supported by district moneys. Positive research shows that starting every day with a nutritious breakfast improves children's ability to learn, fosters attentiveness and achievement and reduces behavioral problems. As a result of their efforts Yale

Public Schools has received "Honor Roll" recognition for their increased overall breakfast participation for students. We are very proud.

*Pictured from left to right are Louanne Warner and Suzanne Guttowsky.*

#### Calendar of Events

- Dec 9 Board Meeting, @ YES, 7 PM
- Dec 20 Christmas Holiday Begins
- Jan 3, 2011 Classes Resume
- Jan 13 Board Meeting, @ JH, 7 PM
- Jan 26-27 6-12 AM Exams
- 6-12 No School PM
- Jan 28 K-12 AM Exams
- Students AM Only
- Second Marking Period Ends for 6-12
- Feb 3 Parent Conferences
- K-5, 5-8 PM





**FONDLY REMEMBERED**

Miss Bialk was a first grade teacher at Avoca Elementary for 36 years. She spent her entire career at Avoca where she created an outstanding, nurturing environment for her students and gave each student the “gift of time”, as she provided the essential building blocks of a solid educational foundation.

Sadly, Miss Bialk passed away in January of 2009 leaving behind a

legacy of living, loving and learning. As a tribute to her leaving a “fingerprint” on so many children, the Avoca Elementary staff have placed a memorial in front of the school to honor her memory. Additionally, library books have been purchased in her name from collected contributions from the staff and community.

**College Recruitment**

This fall, Yale High School was excited to host an evening for parents and students from around the county to hear a presentation about getting into

select colleges. Erica Sanders, the Director of Recruitment and Operations for Undergraduates Admissions at the University of Michigan, was here to provide a free informational session regarding college admissions. In her presentation, she explained what colleges look for in a prospective student. She gave advice on what to consider when choosing a college, steps to take for a positive application process, and what types of things colleges look for on an application. She stressed the importance of taking challenging, rigorous courses in high school, especially math and language arts, regardless of a student’s future plans.

Over 150 students and parents attended the event which was sponsored by the KnowHow2Go program that is operated by the St. Clair County RESA and Parent Liaison Cathy Busdicker.

**Our Hometown Heroes Provide Lessons in Safety**

Yale Public Schools truly knows that it takes a village to reach and teach our youth the fundamentals and foundations of lifelong learning. As a result we have had the fortune of having strong community support to assist us in our mission. The Kenockee Fire Department has been a long-standing partner with Yale Schools to provide a hands-on experience in teaching fire prevention and fire safety. We salute our Hometown Heroes like the Kenockee Fire Department for all of their efforts to provide an enjoyable, yet educational opportunity for our students.

**PINK OUT**

Yale Junior High School students and staff participated in their first ever “Pink Out”. In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, students and staff wore pink clothing, pins and buttons to school. Over 350 students and staff participated in the event that hopes to not only bring awareness to one of the leading cancers faced by women, but to promote wellness and prevention as well.



**Avoca Elementary Hits the Trail**

Avoca Elementary School recently participated in the fall clean up of the Avoca to Wadhams Trail. Students and their families, in addition to the Staff at Avoca, provided numerous man-hours in beautifying this local treasure. Having the opportunity to give back to the community is an excellent hands-on lesson in benevolence that will pay dividends long after the activity. A beautiful, autumn day was simply a bonus for the Avoca staff, students and their families while they “hit the trail” to make a difference!

## 21st Century Learners

Amanda Mlocek and Kenny Peltier video tape Mr. Haynes for a project in their class.

Technology has dramatically changed over the past few years. It has become an essential tool used in the educational process in schools today. Classrooms at Yale Junior High School have been transformed over the last two years. Over 80% of the classrooms have had interactive Promethean White Boards installed. In addition to the white boards, each classroom has had a new laptop and electronic image projector installed to maximize the effectiveness of the board as an instructional tool. These technological enhancements to the educational delivery have resulted in creating a more engaged learner and ultimately improving students' critical thinking skills.

With technology playing such a major role in everyone's life, Yale Junior High School has created several elective classes that allow students to experience technology in a new and different manner. Most sixth grade students participate in our sixth grade basic computing class. Seventh and eighth grade students have the opportunity to participate in one of three different computer based electives. Advanced Computer Class, Digital Media Class and Video Production Class give students the opportunity to use new technologies and programs in ways that they have not been exposed to in the past.

Two students, MacKenzie Clark and Kara Carr, took the time to describe their experiences in Yale Junior High School's newest technology class, Video Production.

Video Production class is a fun and exciting new class in our school. Mrs. Skinner is the teacher and is teaching us something new and exciting every day! So far we have learned how to write and ask good questions, how to present ourselves in front of a camera, how to make and edit videos (soon we will learn how to use green screen effects), how to manage a camera including uploading and downloading pictures and videos. We also have new equipment to work with including a HD video camera, video editing software and three new laptop computers!

We are going to start a school newscast in November. We will be informing the school of class happenings, upcoming events, and sports team information and results. Our class will work as a team and in groups with anchors, photographers, cameramen/women, reporters, and producers/editors. Mr. Mlocek, the father of a student in our class, has donated a tripod we can use for our newscast. It will make it easier to record videos. It is going to make taping our newscast so much easier! Thank you Mr. Mlocek!

We are planning a trip to the St. Clair County RESA. They have a class there on Video Production and we are going to partner with high school students in a video project.

We are very excited about our new class and look forward to making the learning experience more hands-on, interactive and fun, ultimately, better preparing our students to be 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners.

## Put One Foot in Front of the Other

Avoca Elementary School is the proud recipient of a grant from the St. Clair County Community Foundation to promote healthy living. As a result of their funding, Avoca Elementary School was able to develop a Walking Trail on the playground area. The Walking Trail is an oval area that covers 1/8<sup>th</sup> of a mile and students walk (or run) with earnest during lunch and recess. Students earn fitness tokens for their efforts and participation. The Walking Trail has been very well received by the students and parents alike and demonstrates another initiative to reinforce activities that promote healthy living. Walk on!

## Blue Ticket Winners at Yale Elementary

Pictured are one group of Blue Ticket Winners at Yale Elementary. Blue Tickets are given when students have behavior that deserves attention.

We want our students to know that we recognize good behavior and we reward those that

practice doing positive things in the classroom. It can be an act of kindness or a show of respect for others. Students know when the teacher acknowledges their behavior that they have done something positive and they have been noticed.

## RED RIBBON WEEK ACTIVITIES

Students at Avoca Elementary School celebrated more than homecoming this fall, they celebrated being Drug Free! When students arrived at school on Monday morning they sported red clothing in honor of the Drug Free Awareness: Red Ribbon Week. By participating it is our hope that students create a climate and culture among their peers that demonstrates pride and affords independence of being Drug Free!

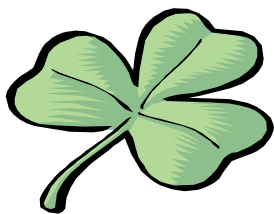
The other spirit days included, Cap Day, Team Day, Sweat Suit Day, and School Spirit day. Other activities included a poster contest and a trail walk utilizing the schools 1/8th mile walking track to help Stomp Out Drugs. (The trail was constructed with funds received in a grant awarded by St. Clair County Community Foundation YAC).

## Farrell-Emmett Elementary is "Going Green"

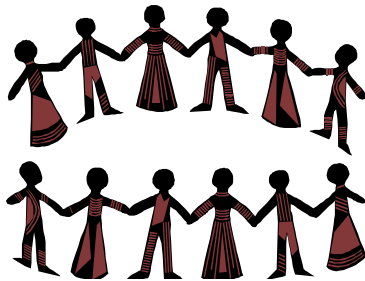
This Year Farrell-Emmett Elementary is trying to make an environmental difference through a paper reduction initiative. The staff is trying to "save some trees" by cutting back on the amount of paper used in the building. One area of improvement to this end will be from the staff submitting their respective Newsletters and updates electronically through the use of e-mail. These efforts will not only reduce paper use, it will also result in savings of printing costs, mailing costs, and improve the overall efficiency of the office staff. Currently 142 families of the 193 families at John F. Farrell have supplied the school with their e-mail addresses to help make this initiative a successful one. The staff will continue to collect e-mail addresses at their Fall Conferences in hopes to implement for their December issue.

As an added bonus, electronic versions of the Newsletter will be more colorful, clear and more readily "passed on" to extended members of the families and friends.

For those who are unable to access electronic copies, a hard copy of the Newsletters will still be made available. We applaud our staff's efforts and cannot think of a better place than Emmett for "Going Green".



## We Get By With a Little Help From Our Friends



Yale Public Schools Counseling Department would like to extend a helping hand to those who are in need during these continued tough economic times.

If you, or anyone you know, are struggling, please contact Yale Elementary/Jr. High Counselor Sharla Smeznik, or Social Worker Julie Jowett-Lee so that we can help our families maneuver through these difficulties. Our counseling department may be able to direct individuals to available resources throughout the county that our families can access if they are made aware.

Our contact number for Mrs. Smeznik or Ms. Jowett-Lee is 810-387-3231, Ext. 208.

We are all in this together and it is good to know that we can get by with a little help from our friends.

## Yale Elementary is "Going Green"

We are going to try to save some trees by cutting back on how much paper we use. We will also be saving printing costs and manpower hours if we electronically send information home. Our first major undertaking will be to e-mail our school newsletter to you.

At our Fall Conferences (Nov. 3, Nov. 11th, and Nov. 23rd) we will be asking families if they would be willing to get the newsletter via e-mail. If so, we will have them sign a sheet with their e-mail address. This address is for our use only. We will create a mailing address box.

We are hoping that the majority of the families will elect to receive the newsletter electronically. Some of the positive results of an electronic newsletter is that it is more colorful, students will not misplace it on the way home, individual families can decide to print specific portions of the newsletter and not the entire thing and it can be forwarded to relatives when there is something special.



## Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan Seeking Adult Volunteers

Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan needs adult volunteers to serve as Girl Scout troop leaders in the Avoca/Emmett/Yale area. Troops are forming now. The girls at Avoca and Emmett Elementary Schools are especially in need of leaders.

Leading a troop is a rewarding experience. Troop leaders are volunteers that guide the Girl Scouts Leadership Experience (GSLE) using fun, creative and exciting programs and activities. For more information about GSLE, log on to [www.gssem.org](http://www.gssem.org). Troop leaders are moms, dads, aunts, grandmas, neighbors and caring members of the community who agree to live by the Girl Scout Promise & Law.

Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan screens, trains and supports all volunteer troop leaders, Troop leaders decide the location and frequency of all troop meetings and collaborate with the girls on developing their leadership experience. Most importantly, our volunteers help create girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

There are many other volunteer opportunities with Girl Scouts of Southeast Michigan. Whether it's leading a troop, providing short-term activities, training other volunteers or assisting with council-wide initiatives – GIRL SCOUTS OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN NEEDS YOU!

Contact your local troop organizer today: Annette Gunderson at 810-600-5054 or [agunderson@gssem.org](mailto:agunderson@gssem.org)

CONTINUING COACHES EDUCATION

The staff of Prostaff Physical Therapy of Yale and Lexington recently sponsored a coach's clinic for local high school coaches. Thirty coaches from Yale, Cros-Lex, Memphis, Marysville, Peck and Imlay City schools were in attendance on October 11, 2010 at Yale High School to hear sessions on injury prevention and techniques to improve sport performance.

The presenters covered topics including the PT's role in deciphering injury and promoting overall wellness, core conditioning, knee injury prevention and nutrition for optimal performance.

Thanks to Tim Vincent (top), Jon Ely (bottom) and Kara Ettema of Prostaff Physical Therapy and Jodi Townsend of Living Strong Fitness for taking time to share their expertise with the areas coaches.

GUIDELINES FOR RELEASE OF STUDENT INFORMATION:

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that Yale Public School District, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, Yale Public School District may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow Yale Public Schools to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor Roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories - names, addresses, and telephone listings - unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want Yale Public Schools to disclose directory information from your child's education records without prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing to the Superintendent, 198 School Drive, Yale, MI 48097. Yale Public Schools has designated the following information as directory information:

- student's name
- student's address
- telephone listing
- electronic mail address
- photograph
- date and place of birth
- major field of study
- dates of attendance
- grade level
- participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- weight and height of members of athletic teams
- degrees, honors, and awards received
- the most recent educational agency or institution attended
- building yearbook



Title I Requirements

October 2010

Title I is a federal supplemental program designed to help students reach high academic standards. Yale Junior High, Yale Elementary, and Avoca Elementary all receive Title I services. In receiving funds for these programs, Yale Public School has a requirement to provide information to parents regarding your child's classroom teacher's professional qualifications upon request. Information will be provided to you upon request of the following:

- ✓ Whether your child's teacher has met Michigan qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- ✓ Whether your child's teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which Michigan qualifications or licensing have been waived.
- ✓ The baccalaureate degree major of your child's teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- ✓ Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.
- ✓ You will also receive timely notice if your child is, for whatever reason, assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

A highly qualified teacher would be defined as a teacher that meets Michigan's qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade level or subject in which the teacher is providing instruction.

- ✓ You may also request additional information on the level of achievement of your child in each of Michigan's assessments. Michigan uses the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) to determine levels of achievement. Information on your child's MEAP assessment will be available at the school your child attends in late Jan. or Feb. Information on teacher qualifications can be obtained for the Central Administration Office at 198 School Drive, Yale MI.



Student Safety a Top Priority

Recently Yale Public Schools participated in an Emergency Campus Evacuation Drill. These type of events are to ensure that in the event of an unlikely crisis, such as a gas leak or natural disaster, that students will be moved from harm's way.

Regular practices such as these ensure that student safety is a top priority.

**YALE HIGH SCHOOL / JUNIOR HIGH WINTER 2010 SPORTS SCHEDULE**

**Girls Varsity Basketball**

12/07	Marlette	A
12/09	North Branch	H
12/14	Croswell-Lexington	H
12/16	Imlay City	A
12/20	Sandusky	H
12/28	Marysville	A
12/29	Marysville	A
1/07	Capac	A
1/11	Richmond	H
1/14	Algonac	H
1/21	Almont	A
1/25	Croswell-Lexington	A
1/28	Armada	H
2/04	Capac	H
2/08	Imlay City	H
2/11	Algonac	A
2/17	Almont	H
2/22	Richmond	A
2/25	Armada	A
2/28	District Week	A

**Girls Junior Varsity Basketball**

12/02	Port Huron Northern	A
12/07	Marlette	A
12/09	North Branch	H
12/14	Croswell-Lexington	H
12/16	Imlay City	A
1/06	Capac	H
1/11	Richmond	H
1/13	Algonac	A
1/20	Almont	H
1/25	Croswell-Lexington	A
1/27	Armada	A
2/01	Sandusky	A
2/03	Capac	A
2/08	Imlay City	H
2/10	Algonac	H
2/16	Almont	A
2/22	Richmond	A
2/24	Armada	H

**Boy Varsity Wrestling**

12/01	Quad @ Goodrich	A
12/04	Lake Orion	A
12/08	Quad	H
12/11	Caro	A
12/15	Quad @ Capac	A
12/18	Swan Valley	A
1/05	Quad @ Lake Orion	A
1/08	38th Annual Bulldog	H
1/12	League Quad @ Armada	A
1/15	Williamston	A
1/19	League Quad @ Yale	H
1/22	Chippewa Valley	A
1/26	League Quad @ Capac	A
1/29	Bulldog Round Robin	H
2/02	Quad @ Cros-Lex	A
2/05	BWAC Meet @ Imlay City	A
2/09	Team Districts	A
2/12	Individual Districts	A
2/16	Team Regionals	A
2/19	Individual Regionals	A

**Girls Varsity Cheerleading**

1/05	Capac	A
1/19	Croswell-Lexington	A
2/02	BWAC Competition	H
2/09	Armada	A
2/18	Districts	H
2/26	Regionals	A
3/05	State Finals	A

**Girls Freshman Basketball**

12/02	Port Huron Northern	H
12/09	North Branch	H
12/14	Croswell-Lexington	H
12/16	Imlay City	A
1/06	Capac	H
1/11	Richmond	H
1/13	Algonac	A
1/20	Almont	H
1/25	Croswell-Lexington	A
1/27	Armada	A
2/01	Sandusky	A
2/03	Capac	A
2/08	Imlay City	H
2/10	Algonac	H
2/16	Almont	A
2/22	Richmond	A
2/24	Armada	H

**Boys Freshman Basketball**

12/08	Brown City	H
12/09	North Branch	A
1/04	Croswell-Lexington	H
1/06	Capac	A
1/12	Sandusky	A
1/13	Algonac	H
1/18	Imlay City	A
1/20	Almont	A
1/27	Armada	H
2/01	Richmond	H
2/03	Capac	H
2/10	Algonac	A
2/15	Croswell-Lexington	A
2/16	Almont	H
2/22	Lapeer	A
2/24	Armada	H
3/01	Imlay City	H
3/03	Richmond	A

**Boys Junior High Basketball**

12/02	Imlay City	H
12/06	Richmond	A
12/09	Memphis	H
12/13	Almont	H
12/16	Armada	A
1/06	Algonac	A
1/10	Capac	H
1/13	Imlay City	A
1/17	Richmond	H
1/20	Memphis	A
1/24	Almont	A
1/27	Armada	H

**Boys Varsity Basketball**

12/08	Brown City	H
12/11	North Branch	A
12/16	Peck	A
12/20	Sandusky	H
12/28	Marysville	A
12/29	Marysville	A
1/04	Croswell-Lexington	H
1/07	Capac	A
1/14	Algonac	H
1/18	Imlay City	A
1/21	Almont	A
1/28	Armada	H
2/01	Richmond	H
2/04	Capac	H
2/11	Algonac	A
2/15	Croswell-Lexington	A
2/17	Almont	H
2/25	Armada	A
3/01	Imlay City	H
3/03	Richmond	A
3/07	District Week	A

**Boys Junior Varsity Basketball**

12/08	Brown City	H
12/09	North Branch	A
12/16	Peck	A
1/04	Croswell-Lexington	H
1/06	Capac	A
1/12	Sandusky	A
1/13	Algonac	H
1/18	Imlay City	A
1/20	Almont	A
1/27	Armada	H
2/01	Richmond	H
2/03	Capac	H
2/10	Algonac	A
2/15	Croswell-Lexington	A
2/16	Almont	H
2/22	Lapeer	H
2/24	Armada	H
3/03	Richmond	A

**Boy Junior Varsity Wrestling**

12/01	Quad @ Goodrich	A
12/08	Quad	H
12/11	Bulldog JV Individual	H
	Invitational	H
12/15	Quad @ Capac	A
1/05	Quad @ Lake Orion	A
1/12	League Quad @ Armada	A
1/19	League Quad @ Yale	H
1/26	League Quad @ Capac	A
2/02	Quad @ Cros-Lex	A

**High School Soccer Competes as a Varsity Sport**

This Fall Yale Soccer took the field of play as a recognized Varsity Sport as identified by the Yale Board of Education and the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). The opportunity to participate at the Varsity level has been an excellent experience for our students and has provided an additional venue for them to showcase their talents. The squad continues to show signs of improvement in a very competitive league play provided by the Blue Water Area Conference (BWAC).

The squad is coached by Sean Lewis, Ron Boggia, and Mara Skinner who hope to continue the marked growth for future play.

Members of the 2010 Varsity Soccer program include:

Freshmen Joshua Porrett, Mitchell Hein, Joshua Boggia and Mark Heidt. Sophomores Sean Vanderhoff, Joshua Boggia, and Mark Heidt. Juniors Tyler Davis, Matthew Boggia, and Cody. Seniors Tyler Davis, Matthew Boggia, and Cody.

**The Bulldog Spotlight**

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Several articles in this publication  
were contributed and authored  
by our building staff.