



The Bulldog

SPOTLIGHT

YALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



November 2009 Edition, Vol 25, No. 2

BOARD MEMBER COMPLETES TRAINING

Pictured above is Board President Dr. Mike McClelland and Board Member Amanda Zabor. Amanda has completed her certification requirements of "New Board Member Orientation". The orientation is an intense training that allows new board members to become familiar with the issues they will be addressing as new board members. Amanda spent many hours during her first year on the board completing the requirements of this certification.

Calendar of Events

- Nov 26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday, No School
- Nov 30 No School - Teacher Inservice
- Dec 10 Board Meeting, YES Elementary, 7:00 PM
- Dec 19-31 Christmas Vacation
- Jan 4 Classes Resume
- Jan 14 Board Meeting, C.O., 7:00 PM
- Jan 26-27 Grades 6-12 AM Exams
Grades 6-12 - No School PM
- Jan 28 Grades K-12 AM Exams - Students AM Only
- Jan 29 Second Marking Period Ends
Records Day - No Students
- Feb 12-15 Mid-Winter Break
- Feb 16 No Students - Full Day Inservice
- Feb 18 Parent Conferences K-5 (5-8 PM)
Board Meeting, JFE Elementary, 7:00 PM

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT...

Budget Concerns

The Michigan Legislature passed a budget last month that reduced per pupil funding by \$165 per student. On October 22, districts were notified of an additional reduction of \$127 per student by the governor's office. The combined reduction of \$292 per student will cause a \$647,072 funding cut to our district. We also have 36 fewer students this fall than last fall, resulting in \$263,376 fewer dollars. Combined, our district has \$910,448 less operational dollars than in 2008/09. While these funding reductions are occurring, costs continue to increase. The district's health insurance rate increased 8.81% this year for an additional cost of \$160,000 and our state retirement costs rose by .4% (\$42,000) this year.

For the current school year we have reduced three teaching positions and one custodial position. Last year we consolidated bus stops to reduce bus runs, among other cuts. Additionally, the Board made significant reductions, including administrative, in 2006. We will take every opportunity to reduce costs. Even so, it will take a concerted effort to actively reduce our expenditures further.

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Budget

Continued from front page:

I have asked the district administrators to submit budget reduction suggestions to me for the 2009/10 school year. I will also meet with our employee group representatives, our parent advisory group, and school improvement team to seek budget-cutting ideas. Once information has been gathered, categorized and prioritized it will be presented to the Board of Education for consideration.

If you have thoughts or suggestions you would like considered, or if you have questions, please contact me at 810-387-3231.

Frank Johnson, Superintendent

Twitter

The district has initiated a twitter account and will be updating it regularly. If you are interested in reading the tweets, please go to our website: www.yale.k12.mi.us

Officer Brett Lester Named D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year

Yale Public School District Liaison Officer, Brett Lester was chosen as this year's state DARE Officer of the Year. Officer Lester who has been teaching the DARE course at Yale Elementary and Jr. High Schools since 2006 was nominated by the Yale Elementary staff and Yale Chief Mike Redman. Officer Lester is a 1988 graduate of Yale High School and works part-time at Yale Schools. He received his award at the annual DARE conference in Mt. Pleasant on August 26, 2009. Congratulations and thank you to Officer Lester.

John F. Farrell-Emmett Elementary Visited by Emmett Volunteer Fire Department

Contributed by Farrell-Emmett Elementary School

To celebrate Fire Prevention Month, Mrs. Quain's kindergarten classes were visited by our Volunteer Emmett Fire Department. Representing the department were Larry McClelland and Mike Butler. The firefighters brought a movie for the students to watch along with coloring books for them to take home and enjoy. The students were excited to check out the NEW truck that is used for grass fires. For most of our students, it was the first time that they were able to see this type of truck and its equipment up close. Mr. McClelland dressed in full gear for the students. He got down and did some maneuvers for the students to see. This introduced the children to what a fire fighter looks like and sounds like when they are dressed in all of their safety gear. Many thanks to our volunteers for sharing their time and knowledge with our students.

Pictured are Firefighters Mike Butler and Larry McClelland (in full gear).

STAYING HEALTHY AND ADDRESSING H1N1

The H1N1 flu virus is still a national and local health issue, and the best preventive strategy for keeping H1N1 from becoming widespread is to follow the advice of health care professionals listed below.

KEEPING KIDS HEALTHY

Prepared by St. Clair County Health Department - share these tips with your students

- Handwashing is the single most important defense we have against infection. Washing for 20 seconds with warm soapy water removes a significant amount of germs from our hands. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer can be an effective replacement if soap and water are not available.
- Keeping immune systems strong through good nutrition, exercise, getting enough sleep and managing stress is important for disease prevention.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and then throw the tissue in a waste container, or cough into shoulder or elbow.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.
- Keep cuts, scrapes and other skin wounds clean and covered. Don't come in contact with other people's wounds or bandages.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick.
- Get a flu shot to help prevent infection with influenza.
- Get a H1N1 vaccination when available if you are in the risk group.
- Stay home when you are sick.

We are working with the St. Clair County Health Department to address the H1N1 illness. Their recommendation at this time is to continue to operate the district and inform the parents of methods of prevention. We have secured many disinfectants and antiseptics to keep students and equipment as clean as possible. We also are disinfecting classrooms as much as possible.

The concern with H1N1 is much larger than just a school issue and we need to work together to keep our schools safe and healthy educational environments. There is more information available regarding H1N1 on the district's website www.yale.k12.mi.us and on the St. Clair County Health Department website www.stclaircounty.org/office/health.

H1N1 vaccination clinics have been scheduled by the Health Department, in all county school districts, including a clinic at Yale High School. The clinic in the Yale district was on November 12. If you missed the Yale clinic please contact the Health Department for information on the vaccine. As we receive more information we will share it with you through our newsletters, website, Parent Connect and future letters home with students if necessary.

FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION AT THE FIRE HALL

Contributed by Yale Elementary School

Fire safety education is not only important for elementary students but fun and interactive too. Kindergarten through fifth grade students at Yale Elementary School, learned Fire Safety Awareness tips at the Brockway Fire Hall. They remembered “STOP”, “DROP”, and “ROLL”, and were able to act it out. Another fire safety tip they were reminded of was to always have a meeting place for their family in case of a house fire. Of course, having fire detectors and making sure the batteries are working in them was another tip that the fourth graders reviewed.

In the smokehouse the students were able to practice staying low and near a wall in a simulated, smoke filled room. This is a favorite for most students because it is so interactive. For those students that preferred an open area instead of a closed, smoke- filled area, climbing aboard the enormous red fire truck was another option at the fire hall. The fire hall staff made us feel so welcome and continues to help educate us here at Yale Elementary.

Students pictured here from top to bottom are Michael Brown, Megan Pracht and Kellie Brennan.

MRSA Information

MRSA is a type of staph bacteria that is resistant to antibiotics such as methicillin and other more common antibiotics such as oxacillin, penicillin and amoxicillin, but it is treatable. A staph infection such as MRSA is not airborne; it spreads most easily from person to person and occurs most often in persons who have weakened immune systems. This infection can also be spread by sharing clothing, towels, razors, bar soap, and by touching inanimate objects if the strain is still alive.

If you or your child has a skin infection or wound that isn't responding as it should to usual treatment, contact your physician immediately. Your doctor can then try to do a culture to confirm that it is MRSA and find out what antibiotics will work to treat the infection. Although MRSA is resistant to methicillin and related penicillin type antibiotics, there are usually other antibiotics that still work. If you notice a wound, please keep it covered completely with a bandage to prevent spread to others.

It is recommended by various public health agencies that students and staff members routinely follow the protocol below as a precaution:

- Wash hands often with soap and water.
- Cover your mouth or nose with a tissue or sleeve if you cough/sneeze.
- Students with staph infections should not participate in contact activities.
- Sanitize locker rooms, weight room and door knobs with diluted bleach (1/4 c. bleach to 1 gallon water).
- Do not share gym clothes, towels, razors or bar soap.
- Keep clothes/towels separate and take gym/athletic clothing home regularly to be washed.
- Wash clothes, towels and sheets in hottest suitable water with laundry detergent. Add bleach if desired.
- Seek medical attention if you believe you may have been infected.
- Cover skin abrasions and cuts with clean dry bandages to prevent infection.

If you have additional questions or concerns about this issue, please visit the St. Clair County Health Department website at <http://www.stclaircounty.org/Offices/health/forms/FactSheets/MRSA.pdf> or contact your family physician.

Famous Scientists Graveyard

Famous scientists were honored by Mrs. Flynn's chemistry class students. Headstones were made and eulogies written for each scientist. Left to right are: Edison Miller, Scott Zimmerman, Kayla Bennett, Mrs. Flynn, Thu Ho and Tim Verbeke.

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



Yale Public Schools Celebrated 43rd Annual School Bus Safety Week

This Year's Theme: Avoid Harm - Obey the Stop Arm

Yale Public Schools Transportation highlighted the importance of school bus safety in honor of National School Bus Safety Week, which was October 19 - 23.

Are you aware that school buses are designed and constructed with more safety features than any other vehicle, and the school transportation industry works continually to incorporate the latest in technology, training and testing to keep school buses safe? "As the safest mode of transportation to and from school", according to the National Academy of Sciences and U.S. Department of Transportation, across the United States, parents trust the school bus to transport more than 26 million schoolchildren in 480,000 school buses each day. In our district alone, we provide transportation to approximately 1400 students daily. "Our job is to ensure that they get to school safe and sound on each and every ride which is why we think it is so important to celebrate School Bus Safety Week", said Jeri Moody, Director of Transportation.

This year's theme, "Avoid Harm - Obey the Stop Arm", emphasizes that drivers must follow the rules of the road and stop when the red lights flash and the stop sign deploys as children are getting on and off the bus. The lights and stop arm requires drivers in all states to stop.

For years, school buses have provided access to an education for millions of children in America through healthy, safe and secure transportation to schools. All told, school buses provide more than 10 billion passenger trips each year. In turn, school buses offer solutions to four key issues facing our country:

- **Safety:** School buses are the safest form of transportation for students - and many times safer than riding in the family car.
- **Traffic:** Every child riding a school bus represents fewer cars on the road, especially in the congested area in and around schools, where children are at the highest risk.
- **Fuel Consumption:** The ASBC estimates that school bus transportation saves Americans more than \$6 billion a year on fuel costs.
- **Environment:** Students riding in the school bus instead of the family car means fewer car trips and less pollution.

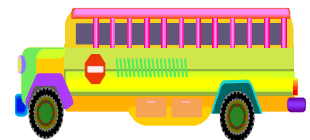
If you are a driver that shares the road, help us promote bus safety with these tips:

- Watch for children walking or crossing the street near a stopped school bus.
- Never attempt to go around or pass a school bus when the stop arm is deployed, it is the law.
- Drive at a safe distance when you see a school bus, and always be prepared to stop.
- Slow down when driving on neighborhood streets, near school bus stops and in school zones.

Helpful Tips for School Bus Riders:

- Always be alert to traffic around you.
- Make eye contact with the bus driver, and wait for the bus driver's signal before crossing the street.
- Walk in front of the bus; never walk behind the bus to cross the street.
- While waiting for the bus, stay in a safe place away from the street/roadway.
- If you drop something, never go under or around the bus to retrieve it.

This article contributed by the Transportation Department



Campus Evacuation Drill

Yale Public Schools conducted a Campus Evacuation Drill on October 8, 2009. This drill is conducted at least once per year to ensure in a crisis all students can be evacuated promptly.

Thank you to all staff and especially to Transportation Director Jeri Moody for a very successful drill. The Transportation Dept. reported that all students were dismissed at 9:08 a.m. and on the buses by 9:14 a.m.. Roll was completed and students returned to classes at 9:22 a.m. Loading 1,600 students in 6 minutes is incredible.

The Bulldog Spotlight
A publication of Yale School District

Published by the Office of Superintendent
Frank Johnson

Layout by Janet Hasler

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

COMMUNICATION

Contributed by Yale Junior High School

We live in a time where instant communication is almost a necessity not a luxury. You probably have a cell phone, an email account, the ability to text from your telephone and receive "twitters" anywhere you travel. Yale Junior High School is working hard to keep parents informed of everything that is happening with the students and our school. The most important tool parents have access to is "Parent Connect". Parent Connect allows parents to access their child's homework, grades, attendance, overall academic average and is also a tool that allows for quick links to staff emails. Parents have access to teachers anytime through email. Yale Junior High School also offers parents access to weekly electronic messages from the principal. The messages usually contain some calendar reminders, interesting articles regarding the students, and a review of the week's events.

Yale Junior High School also produces a full color electronic version of our bi-monthly newsletter. The Advanced Technology class is in the process of designing an interactive website for the junior high school students and their parents. We will keep everyone up-to-date on progress of the webpage through news articles in our newsletters. The junior high school staff is always looking for ways to share with the public the great things we do in our school. If you have any ideas, please feel free to share them with the staff or the principal.

LEADERSHIP

Contributed by Yale Junior High School



It is important to help young men and women learn how to become good leaders. We are pleased to recognize the following students for their active role in student government at Yale Junior High School.

Student Council Officers 2009-2010

- President: Heather May
- Vice-Pres.: Nicholas Priehs
- Secretary: Natalie Currie
- Treasurer: Justin Antilla

Homecoming Royalty

Corrie Hazel
and
Huston Blake

Contributed by Yale High School

The Yale Homecoming Spirit Week was a huge success as students and community alike had the opportunity to show their Bulldog Pride. The week was kicked off in true Homecoming fashion with the annual Alumni Reunion which welcomed representatives from the classes of 1924—1958. Other activities included Spirit Days, a good ole' fashioned hometown parade and the exciting Homecoming Dance. The Homecoming King and Queen were also crowned to reign over the festivities. Corrie Hazel and Huston Blake are shown in photo in all of their regalia. The Bulldogs hosted the Blue Devils of Richmond in the Homecoming football game and were victorious (35-6)! The entire Yale Community demonstrated the Hometown PRIDE of our Bulldogs.



FIFTH GRADERS VISIT DETROIT SCIENCE CENTER

Pictured from left to right are:
Ben Phillips,
Karissa Strenk
and Ben's mother
Eyvonne Phillips.

Contributed by Avoca Elementary School

Students got to prepare for MEAP testing in a fun way last fall. They visited the Detroit Science center and enjoyed a MEAP scavenger hunt and other hands-on activities. Fifth graders tried their best on this year's MEAP in the hopes of winning an all-night trip to the Science Center.

YALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

198 School Drive Yale, MI 48097
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YALE HIGH SCHOOL / JUNIOR HIGH WINTER 09/10 SPORTS SCHEDULE

Girls Varsity Basketball

11/23	Marlette	H
11/25	Scrimmage	H
12/04	Sandusky	A
12/08	Brown City	A
12/15	Cros-Lex	A
12/17	Imlay City	H
12/29	Holiday Tournament	H
12/30	Holiday Tournament	H
1/08	Capac	H
1/12	Richmond	A
1/15	Algonac	A
1/18	Deckerville	H
1/22	Almont	H
1/26	Cros-Lex	H
1/29	Armada	A
2/05	Capac	A
2/09	Imlay City	A
2/11	Algonac	H
2/17	North Branch	A
2/19	Almont	A
2/23	Richmond	H
2/26	Armada	H
3/01	District Week	TBA

Girls Junior Varsity Basketball

12/02	PH Northern	H
12/04	Sandusky	A
12/08	Brown City	A
12/15	Cros-Lex	A
12/17	Imlay City	H
1/07	Capac	A
1/12	Richmond	A
1/14	Algonac	H
1/18	Deckerville	H
1/21	Almont	A
1/26	Cros-Lex	H
1/28	Armada	H
2/04	Capac	H
2/09	Imlay City	A
2/10	Algonac	A
2/17	North Branch	A
2/18	Almont	H
2/23	Richmond	H
2/25	Armada	A

Girls Freshman Basketball

12/02	PH Northern	H
12/04	Sandusky	A
12/15	Cros-Lex	A
12/17	Imlay City	H
1/07	Capac	A
1/14	Algonac	H
1/21	Almont	A
1/26	Cros-Lex	H
1/28	Armada	H
2/04	Capac	H
2/09	Imlay City	A
2/10	Algonac	A
2/17	North Branch	A
2/18	Almont	H
2/25	Armada	A

Boys Varsity Basketball

11/27	Memphis & Marlette	H
12/09	Brown City	A
12/11	Bad Axe	H
12/16	Burton Atherton	H
12/22	Akron-Fairgrove	A
12/29	Holiday Tournament	H
12/30	Holiday Tournament	H
1/06	Cros-Lex	A
1/08	Capac	H
1/12	North Branch	H
1/15	Algonac	A
1/19	Imlay City	H
1/22	Almont	H
1/29	Armada	A
2/02	Richmond	A
2/05	Capac	A
2/08	Sandusky	A
2/11	Algonac	H
2/16	Cros-Lex	H
2/19	Almont	A
2/26	Armada	H
3/02	Imlay City	A
3/04	Richmond	H
3/08	District Week	TBA

Boys Junior Varsity Basketball

12/09	Brown City	A
12/11	Bad Axe	H
12/16	Burton Atherton	H
1/06	Cros-Lex	A
1/07	Capac	H
1/12	North Branch	H
1/14	Algonac	A
1/19	Imlay City	H
1/21	Almont	H
1/28	Armada	A
2/02	Richmond	A
2/04	Capac	A
2/08	Sandusky	A
2/10	Algonac	H
2/16	Cros-Lex	H
2/18	Almont	A
2/25	Armada	H
3/02	Imlay City	A
3/04	Richmond	H

Boys Junior High Basketball

12/03	Richmond	H
12/07	Memphis	A
12/10	Almont	A
12/14	Armada	H
12/17	Algonac	A
1/07	Capac	H
1/11	Imlay City	A
1/14	Richmond	A
1/18	Memphis	H
1/21	Almont	H
1/25	Armada	A
1/28	Algonac	H

Boys Varsity Wrestling

11/21	Scrimmage Quad	H
12/02	Quad	H
12/05	Lake Orion Dragon Duals	A
12/10	Quad Cros-Lex	A
12/12	Caro	A
12/16	Quad-Capac	H
12/19	Swan Valley	A
1/02	Bulldog Varsity Tournament	H
1/06	Quad-Capac	A
1/09	Blue Water Classic	A
1/13	League Quad	H
1/16	Williamston	A
1/20	League Quad-Almont	A
1/23	Chippewa Valley	A
1/27	League Quad-Richmond	A
2/03	Quad-Cros-Lex	H
2/06	BWAC Meet Cros-Lex	A
2/10	Team Districts Imlay City	A
2/13	Individual Districts Richmond	A
2/17	Team Regionals	A
2/20	Individual Regionals	A
2/27	Team State Finals	A
3/04	Individual State Finals	A
3/05	Individual Finals	A
3/06	Individual Finals	A

Boys Junior Varsity Wrestling

12/02	Quad	H
12/10	League Quad-Cros-Lex	A
12/12	Bulldog JV Individual Invite	H
12/16	Quad-Capac	H
1/06	League Quad-Capac	A
1/13	League Quad	H
1/20	League Quad-Almont	A
1/27	League Quad-Richmond	A
1/30	Bulldog Round Robin	H
2/03	Quad-Cros-Lex	H

Girls Varsity Cheerleading

1/13	BWAC Meet Richmond	A
1/27	BWAC Meet Almont	A
2/10	BWAC Meet Algonac	A
2/17	BWAC Imlay City	A

Boys Freshman Basketball

12/09	Brown City	A
12/11	Bad Axe	H
1/06	Cros-Lex	A
1/07	Capac	H
1/12	North Branch	H
1/14	Algonac	A
1/19	Imlay City	H
1/21	Almont	H
1/28	Armada	A
2/02	Richmond	A
2/04	Capac	A
2/08	Sandusky	A
2/10	Algonac	H
2/16	Cros-Lex	H
2/18	Almont	A
2/25	Armada	H
3/02	Imlay City	A
3/04	Richmond	H