



FALCON FLIER

JUNE/JULY 2011

Superintendent's Letter

As we close another school year, we want to thank our staff, our parents, our volunteers, and our community for your tireless efforts on behalf of our students. It has been another wonderful year of learning at Allendale Public Schools. This edition of our newsletter is a celebration of the accomplishments of our students and staff.

This summer, and the transition from the past school year to the next, will be a little different than previous summers. First, we are in the midst of negotiating new agreements with almost all of our employee groups. Because of these negotiations we do not have a finalized calendar for the next school year. School will start as usual on September 6, the day after Labor Day. As soon as we have a negotiated calendar, we will publish it to our parents and community. Second, with the reduction in state funding back to the level of the 2005-06 school year, our Board of Education has had to make difficult decisions to balance the budget and maintain educational programming for our students. These decisions involve laying off valued employees—teachers and support staff. It also means raising class sizes to negotiated contract limits. Because of these changes, we cannot provide elementary parents with teacher/class assignments until August when we have firmer enrollment numbers and finalized teaching assignments. We are sorry for any inconvenience this might cause our families, but we want to avoid multiple changes for children as they prepare for a new school year.

We deeply appreciate our community's support of Allendale Public Schools. It truly takes multiple partnerships to educate our children for their future. We encourage you to find ways in which you can become a volunteer to be involved in supporting programs for our children so they can "explore their passions, and seize their opportunities."

Dr. Daniel Jonker, Superintendent



**Thank You
Board President
Eric Packer**

After over ten years of service, the Allendale Board of Education honored its President, Eric Packer at its June 13th Board meeting.

Mr. Packer has been a leader in improving the Board's professional learning, culminating in an Honor Board Award and Standard of Excellence Award this year. In addition, Mr. Packer has been influential in supporting curriculum and technology innovations in the district as a member of district-wide committees. He also served as a member of the District Crisis Team. Regionally, Eric has been the president of the Ottawa Area Association of School Boards. Mr. Packer has served for six years as a member of the Ottawa Area ISD Board of Education and was recently elected to another six year term.

May School Election Results

On May 3, the annual school election was held. Three candidates were running for two board seats. Ms. Jennifer Coffey received 548 votes and Mr. Jim Crawley received 475 votes to win the two 4-year terms. Mr. Jeff Blum finished third with 367 votes. Also in the school election, the annual 18 mil nonhomestead tax renewal was on the ballot. Voters approved the millage renewal with a vote of 662 to 159. This millage is a critical portion of our total revenues. Thank you for your continued support of Allendale Public Schools.



The Allendale Community says "Good-Bye" to Retirees and thanks them for their service to Allendale Public Schools



**Steve
VanderPloeg
38 Years**

.....
**Evergreen
Elementary
Principal**



**Dave
Chrisinske
32 Years**

.....
**Athletic
Director**



**Ruth Elzinga
20 Years**

.....
**Classroom
Aide**



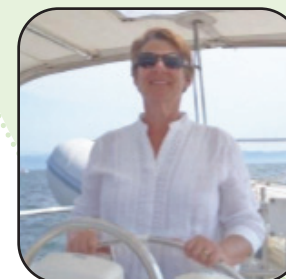
**Karen Mosier
22 Years**

.....
**Director of
Teaching &
Learning**



**Karen Ensing
31 Years**

.....
**District Office
Secretary**



**Connie Frakie
16 Years**

.....
**Food Service
Director**

Evergreen and Springview Elementary recognized their parent volunteers with a Volunteer 'Thank You Coffee' on Monday, June 6. All volunteers received a token of appreciation gift for all they have done to help the students and staff of the elementary campus on a daily basis. **We couldn't do what we do without our volunteers!!!**

"Top Ten" Academic Seniors for 2011



Allyson Richardson,
daughter of John and Martha Richardson, is Senior Class Valedictorian and plans to attend the University of Michigan.



Erica Beitel,
daughter of Robert and Collette Beitel, is Senior Class Salutatorian and plans to attend Alma College.



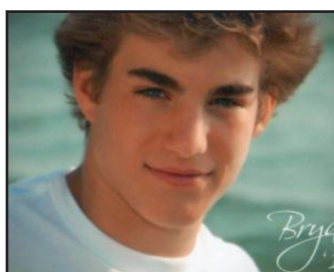
Bryce Brown,
son of Rick and Francine Brown, is Senior Class Salutatorian and plans to attend the University of Michigan.



Arica VanderWal,
daughter of Janice VanderWal, plans to attend San Jacinto College in Texas.



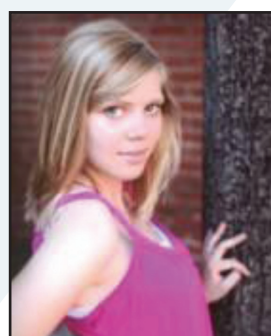
Paige Schoenborn,
daughter of Randy and Betsy Schoenborn, plans to attend Central Michigan University.



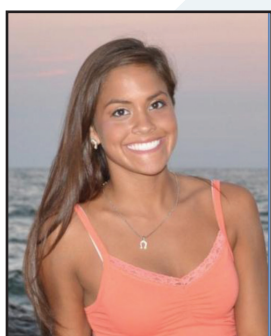
Bryan Reatini,
son of Dan and Sandy Reatini, plans to attend Central Michigan University.



Rebecka Bronkema
daughter of Anne Vidro and Todd Bronkema, plans to attend Depaul University.



Jill VanNeuren,
daughter of Paul and Sandy VanNeuren, plans to attend Cornerstone University.



Alexis Arzate,
daughter of Donna Janes and Gary Janes (step-father), plans to attend Grand Valley State University.



Jessica Campbell,
daughter of Bruce and Sheri Campbell, plans to attend the University of Detroit Mercy at Aquinas College.

Senior Awards

Monday, May 23, 2011 numerous members of the Class of 2011 were honored at the Senior Honors Convocation for their academic achievement and service during their time at Allendale High School. Approximately \$2,000,000 in scholarships was earned by AHS seniors. Graduates will take advantage of \$900,000 of these scholarship funds offered by the colleges and universities they have chosen to attend.

Winners of local community scholarships included:

- Chemical Bank Citizenship Scholarship:
Bryan Reatini (\$500) & Hannah Belan (\$500)
- Leprino Foods Volunteerism Scholarship:
Bryce Brown (\$500) & Jessica Campbell (\$500)
- MI Community Blood Centers Scholarships:
Hannah Belan (\$250) & Tony Packer (\$250)
- AHS Athletic Boosters Scholarship:
Taryn Fritz (\$500) & Jared Groeneveld (\$500)
- AHS Music Boosters Scholarship:
Erica Beitel (\$500) & Jill VanNeuren (\$500)
- Ceglarek Family Fine Arts Scholarship:
Jimmy Versluis (\$1000)
- Steve Scholten Future Educator Scholarship:
Erica Beitel (\$300)
- ACE Communications Scholarships:
Hannah Belan (\$1000) & Erica Beitel (\$1000)
- GR Press Superstar Senior:
Paige Schoenborn
- Holland Hospital RN Scholarship:
Tricia Shortsle (\$5000)
- Zeeland Hospital Scholarship:
Tricia Shortsle (\$1000)
- Allendale Community Foundation Scholarships:
Erica Beitel (\$1000), Branden Greinke (\$500),
Jessica Campbell (\$300),
Jared Groeneveld (\$250)

Evergreen Elementary

Our Evergreen Elementary school family experienced many highlights throughout this school year. Students enjoyed curriculum related field trips to a variety of places including the Critter Barn, Meijer Gardens, Outdoor Discovery Center, John Ball Zoo, Grand Rapids Children's Museum, and the Kent Recycling Center. These were excellent learning experiences for all our students. I would like to thank the many parent volunteers who participated in these trips with our students and staff.

A large number of our 2nd and 3rd graders chose to learn more about science at the Elementary Science Olympiad held this year in the middle school. It was great to see how many of our high school students interacted so well with our elementary students. A special "thank you" goes out to Mrs. Beck for coordinating this event.

The Ceglarek Fine Arts Center was an excellent venue for Elementary Family Literacy Night. Hundreds of students, parents, grandparents, staff, and friends enjoyed presentations by three well known authors from the West Michigan area. We would especially like to thank Mrs. Mosier for organizing this outstanding learning experience!

The third annual Fitness Frenzy was a wonderful success again this year. The collaboration among parent volunteers, staff members, GVSU, Allendale students, and community businesses was amazing. It was great to see such a fundraiser focusing on fitness and healthy lifestyles. A special thanks to the PTO and Mr. Walstra for leading this event!

Every year we celebrate the Fine Arts with several exciting events. This year, we again joined with Springview Elementary for a wonderful Fine Arts Fair. All students had several pieces of art displayed throughout our buildings. Additionally, our 2nd graders put on an excellent musical performance and for the second time we had a dynamic "Instrument Petting Zoo" where students enjoyed "hands on" experiences with several professional musicians with their instruments. We offer our sincere thanks to Miss Cordingly, Mrs. Lemus, Mrs. Suhy and Mrs. Yettah for all of their work to make this event such a success! Continuing this year was a series of "Informances" presented by each kindergarten class. Many parents and grandparents joined us as Miss Cordingly led students through a typical music class. Our guests appreciated the opportunity to come right into the classroom. Everyone enjoyed a brief reception with refreshments after each performance. Our 1st and 3rd graders joined with Springview to present two wonderful performances in the Ceglarek Fine Arts Center. Both Mr. DeZwaan and Miss Cordingly did an outstanding job of preparing our students!

Thank you parents, community members, students, and staff for contributing to another outstanding school year! I trust that our students will always demonstrate respect and responsibility as they continue to experience many learning opportunities throughout the summer months.

Steve VanderPloeg, Evergreen Principal

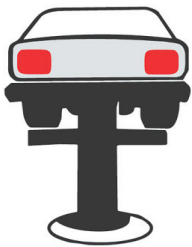


Great Start Preschool learns about fire safety through a field trip to the Allendale Fire Station.

The temperature rose according to the "Falcon Ticket" thermometer at Springview Elementary, when it came to the number of "Tickets" distributed to students who demonstrated the many ways they were **respectful, responsible, and ready to learn**. Throughout the spring, school-wide challenges were met and all students enjoyed an extra recess with a popsicle treat, and on another occasion a grade level movie and popcorn in the gym. Fall of 2011 will include a specific training of behavioral expectations for each area of our elementary campus as it relates to being **respectful, responsible, and ready to learn**. Be sure to ask your child about the 3R's!



Evergreen, Oakwood, and Springview students walking back from their Annual Field Day at the high school athletic field.



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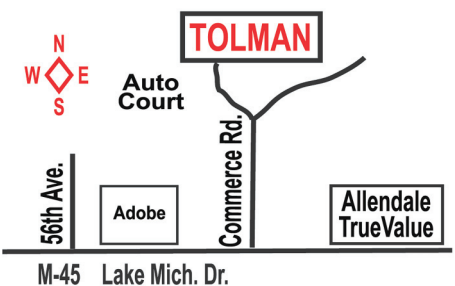


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Summer: Time to Exercise Both the Body and the Brain!

Evergreen and Springview Elementary DK-3rd grade students will have the opportunity to accept a **SUMMER CHALLENGE**, designed to help keep their brain active by reading, writing, and practicing math computation throughout June, July and August. Each student will receive a packet of information explaining the program details before they leave for the summer. If the required paperwork is signed and returned by Friday, September 9, 2011, they will be awarded a prize bag, treats, and a time to play while their classmates are working! It's a WIN/WIN opportunity! Thank you for encouraging the elementary students you know!!

Skype Comes to Kindergarten

Mrs. Kim Johnston's kindergarten class made contact 'via Skype' with a former student now living in Germany. The students were able to reconnect with their classmate and ask questions about her home and school. They read to her, updated her on what they have learned since she left, and heard about her experiences since returning to her homeland.



Mrs. Johnston's class with former classmate Caroline Zierau who now lives in Germany



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4th Grade Field Trip to Civic Theater

Last month the fourth graders had the opportunity to attend the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre's rendition of "Charlotte's Web". The play was highlighted in the Grand Rapids Press for its use of puppets to assist with the dramatic presentation. Many of the teachers read the book aloud to their students in anticipation of the play. The field trip was a success and as always, it is a pleasure to see a classic book 'in action'.



Samantha Brovont, Brooke Nyenhuis and Zeke Chojnacki

APS Welcomes New Food Service Director



With the retirement of Connie Frakie as Food Service Director, the Allendale Board of Education approved an agreement at its May meeting to share the position with Spring Lake Public Schools to reduce costs. Peg Panici, the current Spring Lake Food Service Director, will now be Allendale's Food Service Director as well.

Peg Panici was born and raised in West Michigan. After attending Muskegon Community College, she transferred to Michigan State University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree. After working in the gerontology field, Peg switched to "School Lunch" as her occupation and has devoted 25 years of her career to Food Service in several school districts in Michigan and Wisconsin. It is a passion of Peg's to ensure that students receive a low cost, healthy meal every school day in a pleasant environment.

Peg looks forward to the challenge of working with the Food Service program in Allendale as well as Spring Lake. She always appreciates input from staff, students, and parents. We welcome Ms. Panici to Allendale Public Schools!



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Medications Left at School

State restrictions pertaining to the return of medications by the school require parents to pick up excess meds from the school. The middle school office can no longer send excess meds home with students. The office is required to turn over any leftover meds after the conclusion of the school year to Officer Dewitt for disposal. This will occur June 24. If your child had medication at school during the previous school year that you didn't already collect, you can pick up this medication until June 24.

PLEASE CONSIDER THE APS FOUNDATION IN YOUR CHARITABLE GIVING

The Allendale Public School Foundation (an Endowed Fund within the Allendale Community Foundation) offers an opportunity for people passionate about education and our community's children to come forward and make a real difference right now and for years to come. The Allendale Public School Foundation asks you to please consider them and their mission in your charitable giving and financial planning.



Taxpayers can generate a total contribution to the **Allendale Public School Foundation's Endowed Fund** within the Allendale Community Foundation worth almost three times its actual out-of-pocket cost! This astonishing effect is created via the Michigan Tax Credit for Community Foundations.

For more information, you can go to the APS website at www.allendale.k12.mi.us and click on "Foundation," or contact the Foundation Office at (616) 842-6378 and ask for Holly.

Our Mission To promote positive change by building a financial foundation to support academic programs and scholarships for students and alumni of Allendale Public Schools.

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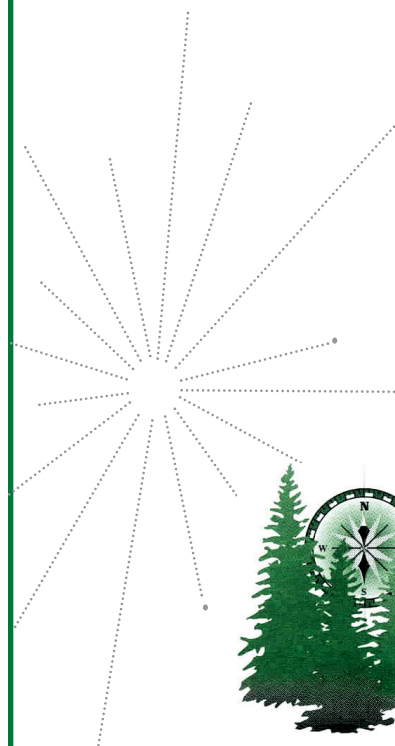
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Alexis Umlor designed and painted the Falcon head now located in the middle school gym. The intent of the design was to promote school spirit among middle school students. The mural took Alexis 2 weeks to complete. Thank you and nice job Alexis!



The middle school has started a new tradition in the new building. 8th graders were asked to enter designs for a mural that represents their class. Betsy Sauter, Bailee Vugteveen, Aubri Carrell, Elise Emmert, Heather LaBrecque, Rachael Emerick, and Autumn VanHam won the competition. They stated that the '15 idea is because they're graduating in 2015 and the school song is always special. Great job girls.

Middle School Student Schedules

Student schedules will be developed over the summer and available on picture dates: August 22 and 24. All fines and fees must be satisfied before students will be able to receive their schedule. If a student is interested in participating in Advanced Math or is planning to switch from band to choir or choir to band, they need to inform the office before the beginning of the new school year. If a student who is currently renting an instrument decides to switch from band to choir, parents will need to contact the middle school office after August 18 to discuss returning the instrument. The office will be able to provide information for ending the rental agreement. August office hours start on August 18. Times are from 8:00 to 3:00 until school starts.

2010-11 Allendale High School Athletic Awards

Team

2010/11 OK Silver Champions: Competitive Cheer, Wrestling, Boys Track, Softball

District Champions: Wrestling

Regional Champions: Wrestling

State Semifinalist: Wrestling

State Semifinalist: Wrestling

State Qualifier: Girls & Boys Cross Country, Wrestling, Boys & Girls Track

Individual

State Champions: Ali Wiersma (Cross Country & Track)
Jared Groeneveld (Wrestling)

All State:

Cross Country - Ali Wiersma (1st), Thomas Bambach (9th)

Wrestling - Jared Groeneveld (1st), Luke Jensen (3rd), Cody Bergquist (7th),
Bryan Reatini (7th)

Track - Ali Wiersma - 3200 m (1st) & 1600 m (2nd),

400 m Relay Boy's Team (3rd), Bryce Brown, Sean Steeno, Kyle Landis,
and Zander Espinoza

2011 Outstanding Senior Athletes: Taryn Fritz and Jared Groeneveld

Team Academic All State Recognition

Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country, Wrestling, Boys & Girls Track

Boys' Track



Girls' Varsity Softball




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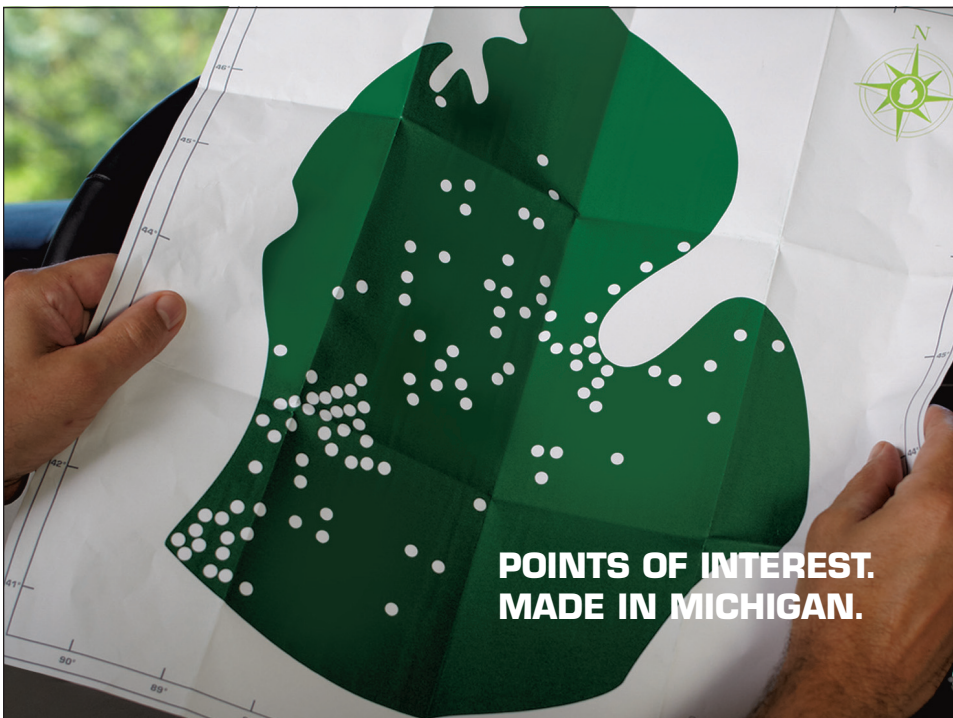
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Book Swaps

To encourage summer reading, students in Springview, Evergreen, Oakwood, and Middle School participated in "book swaps" on May 20 and May 27. Students brought in gently used books and were able to trade them for books from other students' collections. Over 900 books were exchanged in the four buildings, giving participants a chance to discuss books and suggest titles to others.

Students in grades K-6 also received a Barnes and Noble log with which they can earn a free book by reading this summer. The incentive runs from March 24 to September 1,



Camp Pinewood

On May 4-6, Oakwood 5th grade students traded in the classroom learning for some outdoor education at YMCA Camp Pinewood on beautiful Echo Lake! The students spent their time rock climbing, canoeing, scaling the mid-ropes course, hiking, studying pond life,



learning about survival skills, and challenging themselves to work together as a team. The evenings were busy with recreation activities, night hikes, campfires & smores, songs, and more!

A special thank you to the 45 parents who volunteered to attend camp as chaperones! It was a fun and memorable trip for everyone!



"Thank You" to Our Extraordinary Oakwood Volunteers

As the 2010-2011 school year closes, we have an opportunity to reflect on the things that make Allendale Public Schools stand out as an educational community. One of the things that top the list for the Oakwood Intermediate family are the extraordinary volunteers who poured hours of time and tons of energy into assisting us in the work of nurturing our kids.

The students and staff of Oakwood have benefited all year long from the dedication, love, and compassion our parents, community members, and GVSU student- volunteers have shown. The generosity of each Oakwood volunteer has helped to make our students' educational experience significant. Our volunteers continue to make a real difference in the lives of our Oakwood kids and for that we say "Thank You!"



Tai Stewart, Makenna Kuncaitis and Lauren Freeman, students in Mrs. Luban's 5th grade classroom helping Christe Avink, parent volunteer, prepare and serve coffee for staff members on Café Friday.

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