



# FALCON FLIER

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2011

## Allendale Public Schools Board of Education Honored for Excellence in School Governance



### PRESENT BOARD OF EDUCATION

**FRONT ROW: Scott MacDonald, President; Jim Crawley, Vice-President; Ron Brouwer, Treasurer**  
**BACK ROW: Meegan Zickus, Trustee; Christopher Breen, Trustee; Jennifer Coffey, Trustee; Sheryl Pineiro, Secretary**

Allendale Public Schools Board of Education has met the rigorous requirements to be named to the distinguished list of the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) Board Visionary Leadership Award winners. By design, it's extremely difficult for boards to even qualify to apply for the award, let alone actually win. Since the program's inception in 2004, only 12 districts have received the honor.

The Board Visionary Leadership Award was created to recognize boards of education/governance teams for their vision, leadership, and success in raising student achievement. Entries are evaluated by independent judges against a pre-established set of criteria:

- Leadership for achievement
- Growth in student achievement
- Board development/leadership effectiveness
- Board conduct, operations, and ethics
- Communications and community relations

The board of education and superintendent has demonstrated a clear and shared focus on student achievement as well as high levels of communication and collaboration. An independent judge stated, "It's very apparent that the board provides strong leadership and has used great communication practices to engage its community. This team also shows evidence they're continuing to strive for furthering their school district's academic excellence through board development and clear policies that have a direct emphasis on their commitment to student achievement."

"The Allendale Public Schools Board of Education has demonstrated they are truly committed to improving student achievement for all students," said Kathy Hayes, MASB executive director. "They clearly understand the importance of a strong team to effectively serve their students and communities."

Members of the 2010-11 award-winning Allendale Public Schools Board of Education team include: Eric Packer, president; Trustees Christopher Breen, Ron Brouwer, James E. Crawley, Scott MacDonald, Sheryl Pineiro and Meegan Zickus; Dr. Daniel Jonker, superintendent.

## "PROFICIENCY" ON STATE-REQUIRED TESTS HAS A NEW DEFINITION

Allendale Public Schools is taking a proactive approach to communicating with parents and the community concerning scoring changes to the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) and Michigan Merit Exam (MME) tests this year.

Each year, Allendale Public Schools' students along with all other Michigan public school students in grades 3-9 are required to take the MEAP (in October) and eleventh graders are required to take the MME (in March). You may have heard press reports that the Michigan Board of Education had recently adopted new "cut scores" for the MEAP test. Rather than rely on the news media, we encourage parents to use Allendale Public Schools and the Michigan Department of Education for the most accurate and current information.

So, what are cut scores and why has the Michigan State Board of Education changed them? MEAP and MME cut scores separate test takers into various categories, such as advanced, proficient, partially proficient and not proficient. Michigan's previous cut scores for these state tests were set at a very basic level. Raising the cut scores will give Michigan parents and students a much better sense of whether they are adequately prepared for the next step in their education and a future career in a global economy beyond high school.

The new cut scores represent a significantly higher standard for student achievement and are intended to more accurately reflect a student's progress toward college and career readiness. On some tests, students previously could have answered as few as 40 percent of the questions correctly to be considered proficient. Under the new scoring system, students will have to correctly answer a much higher percentage of questions. Michigan is one of only three states in the nation (along with New York and Tennessee) to move to this top tier level of test scoring.

Like school districts across the state, Allendale Public Schools' MEAP and MME proficiency results are expected to look much different than past years' results. When scores are released this spring, we anticipate an initial drop in the number of students reported as "proficient" based upon the new higher standard. We are confident this change will be temporary, due to ongoing school improvement efforts and student support.

If a student is reported as "not proficient," it does not mean that he or she isn't gaining academic skills or knowledge expected for his or her grade level. It means that on the day of the test, this student was not yet proficient on the material being tested to meet the new state benchmark at that grade

level. Many students may require additional help and/or time to master these skills. Actually, by the time parents and the school receive the MEAP/MME results from the state, many students identified as "not proficient" will have closed the gap.

The MEAP and MME tests are only two of several measures used in our district throughout the year to insure that students are making academic progress. We maintain high standards for our students and their test scores are consistently among the highest in the state. We anticipate this trend will continue even with the new cut scores.

We will be examining our curriculum to respond to this more challenging level of test scoring. In addition, our staff will focus our professional development efforts on enhancing our abilities so we can rise to the challenge presented by these recent changes.

Undoubtedly, parents will have many questions about the scoring changes. We will continue to provide information through a variety of communication channels such as newsletters, email, our website, parent-teacher conferences, and more. With parent-teacher conferences coming up in early November, we encourage you to attend those conferences and talk with your child's teacher about his or her academic progress.

For more information, contact Dr. Dan Jonker, Superintendent, or visit [www.oaisd.org/statetests](http://www.oaisd.org/statetests).

# Sam Rhine's Genetics Conference at GVSU

By: Cassandra VanderMolen

Human genome. Coding DNA. Phenotypes. If you were asked to define these terms, how easy would it be for you? The answer for most would be "quite difficult!" Well, on Thursday, September 22nd, eager students from schools across west Michigan, gathered at GVSU's Kirkoff Center to learn more about the topic of Genetics.

This conference, which is equivalent to a college-classroom lecture, was led by none other than Sam Rhine, who is known as one of the most effective human genetics educators in America today.

Teenagers, and teachers alike, listened for four hours as Sam explained molecular biology, human genetics, stem cell research, and other related topics. This conference, which came equipped with an eighteen-page note supplement, covered ideas in science that the typical high



school student has never even heard of; however all of the attendees (at least those from Allendale High School) fully immersed themselves in the lecture by diligently taking notes and paying careful attention to everything that was said. Sam introduced the teens to new scientific

discoveries in regards to everything from stem cell and cancer research, to an in-depth look at the stages of a fetus during pregnancy. In the end, he tied it all together with the common thread that is genetics.

Those who have visited the conference in the past, still return year after year to find new concepts and new ideas to be learned, as the field of molecular biology is constantly making advancements. As one of the 77 students from AHS who attended the conference this year, I can personally attest to how beneficial the information was, and I strongly recommend going to hear Mr. Rhine's lecture next time he is in town!

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## New Faces at APS

### Bruce Snoap

Mr. Snoap is a Paraprofessional at our high school assisting Mr. Tony Bush with the Bands and supporting students in our online learning program. Mr. Snoap is a graduate of Hope College and completed a Master's Degree at Western Theological Seminary.



### Dawn Koekkoek

Ms. Koekkoek is the new Associate Teacher in our Great Start Readiness Program located in the Evergreen wing of our elementary school. She replaces Janis Lutz who reduced her work schedule to pursue further education. Ms. Koekkoek previously served as a substitute teacher and parapro at Allendale Public Schools. Her experience with preschool includes serving as a Head Start Center Director in Zeeland.



### Jana Miseta

Ms. Miseta is our High School Employment Training Specialist. She replaced Kris Underhill who took a job with Ottawa Area ISD. Ms. Miseta is a graduate of Michigan State University and is working on her Master's Degree in Special Education at Eastern Michigan University. She will be working with our Community-Based Vocational Instruction program.



### Kristin DeGroot

Ms. DeGroot is a Title I Paraprofessional at Oakwood Intermediate School. Prior to working for Allendale Public Schools, Ms. DeGroot was the school secretary at Lamont Christian School and a substitute paraprofessional at Coopersville Area Public Schools.



### Sarah Schreuder

Ms. Schreuder teaches Computer Literacy classes in our Shared-Time Program at Allendale Christian School. Ms. Schreuder replaced Lauralee Veenstra who resigned last spring to move to Colorado. Ms. Schreuder earned her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Calvin College.



### Rachel Barker

Ms. Barker is a Special Education Instructional Aide at Oakwood Intermediate School. Ms. Barker earned her Bachelor's Degree in Learning Disabilities from Hope College.



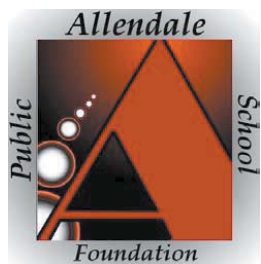
# Elementary PTO Off to a Great Start

WOW!! What a GREAT turn-out for the first PTO meeting of the year. The evening started with a large gathering of parents and children for the Mancino's dinner provided by the PTO. It was great to see everyone enjoying dinner and talking with other parents and friends. The kids eventually moved to the gym to play while the PTO officers led an informational meeting about the upcoming year, budget information, and ways to get involved to help both the Oakwood and the Elementary students and teachers. Following the meeting portion of the evening, the parents were entertained by Mr. Doug Swink, from the Zeeland-based organization called, Winning at Home. Doug shared a lot of great information, but asked those gathered to take three things from the evening: See children for who they are, keep giving children hope, and seize every moment with your child.

Elementary (K-5) PTO meetings are held the third Monday night of most months with a few exceptions. Childcare will be provided for each meeting and some evenings will also include dinner. Upcoming PTO dates are October 17, November 21, January 16, February 27, March 19, April 26, and May 21. Plan now to join us for the next meeting!!



**2011-12 PTO Officers: Jennifer Kraai (President),  
Teresa Patteuw (Vice President),  
Debbie Meindersma (Secretary),  
& Emily Connelly (Treasurer)**



## PLEASE CONSIDER THE ALLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION IN YOUR CHARITABLE GIVING

The Allendale Public School 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.

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



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**Music Show**

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Please email the Elementary PTO at  
[allendalepto@gmail.com](mailto:allendalepto@gmail.com)

## Help a Michigan Child Get Health Insurance Today!

The number of Michigan children who lack health insurance would fill more than 3,100 school buses. If you know a Michigan child who has no health insurance, please read on because you may be able to help them get coverage today. It's estimated that most of the 127,000 Michigan children without health insurance are eligible for one of the state's free or low-cost health insurance plans – MICHild or HealthyKids. Those eligible children are not yet enrolled for a variety of reasons, including language barriers, lack of transportation, lack of awareness of eligibility requirements, or how to enroll.

This summer and fall, a new campaign called Enroll Michigan is working to enroll as many eligible children as possible into MICHild or Healthy Kids. The goal of the campaign is to let parents of uninsured children know there is a good chance their child qualifies and to work with them to get the child enrolled. Enroll Michigan is spearheaded by the Michigan Primary Care Association (MPCA), the Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA), and the Middle Cities Education Association (MCEA).

By visiting [www.enrollmichigan.com](http://www.enrollmichigan.com), you can connect with an enrollment expert who is ready to enroll your child. Enrolling is much faster and easier than in the past and can often be completed in less than 30 minutes with little to no paperwork. Enrollments can even be completed over the phone by contacting the Community Navigator in your area through the website. You can email [enroll@mPCA.net](mailto:enroll@mPCA.net) or call 2-1-1 to get connected today.



Food Service is participating in the Farm-to-School Program and working with local farmers to provide fruits and vegetables. Students have enjoyed fresh peaches, apples, tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers.

**Reminder:** Free and Reduced lunch applications must be submitted each year. If you have not completed an application, please do so. Applications are available at all school offices and on-line.



## Summer Challenge Celebration

Congratulations to the 65 elementary students who participated in the Summer Challenge by completing required minutes in reading, writing, and math. They were treated to a special prize bag, treats, and an extra recess in September. As a group, the following grand totals were recognized.

Reading – 66,421 minutes

Writing – 26,969 minutes

Math – 21,011 minutes

This dedication demonstrates true character and also places them in good academic standing for a new school year!

## WHAT'S NEW IN FOOD SERVICE?

### Elementary and Oakwood Intermediate Schools

Elementary and Oakwood Intermediate students can now choose between two main offerings for lunch. The menu features the A choice, which changes daily, and the B choice which is offered every day for that week. Students are enjoying the choice of options.

### Middle School

Food Service is offering the main entrée as a "self serve" bar in the Middle School. Watch for updates!

### High School

The High School now features the Falcon Sub Line as a choice for students. A variety of breads, baked fresh each morning, along with an assortment of meats and cheeses are offered. Students can then top their sandwiches at the toppings bar featuring a selection of fresh veggies and dressings! Students can also add a bag of baked chips, fresh carrots, a variety of fruit selections, and fat free milk to make a complete lunch. Survey results indicate that students are very pleased with this new option.

# Ottawa County Is Our Sandbox!

We play well with area and regional centers of education, training providers and the business community.

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We work with students at all levels to prepare for what's next in their career.

We even partner with Zeeland Adult Education, providing space and support so that students can achieve their GED, ESL or literacy credential.

We increase the skill level of West Michigan, one future at a time.



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## News from Evergreen and Springview Elementary Schools

Evergreen and Springview students have been earning Falcon Tickets for respectful, responsible, and ready to learn behavior. The displays near both offices help keep track of how many tickets have been earned. Every falcon is worth 200 tickets! The pictured students, along with their classmates, have been doing a great job of making positive choices!



Students L to R: Jozalynn Zaiser, Ben Bird, Taryn Kelly, Brooklynn Grifhorst, Carter Koch, Conner Woods, A.J. Carter, and Morgan Dyke

## Parents of Senior Students Needed

We are still looking for any and all Senior Parents to get involved in making their child's last memories of High School a great one! Parents are needed to help with staffing concession stands and actively helping with many different "fun" fundraisers. For more information, go to [www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com).

The next meeting will be held at the AHS cafeteria on November 13, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Co-Chairs Laura Snyder (560-3504 [roulaura@gmail.com](mailto:roulaura@gmail.com)) or Kim Blum (450-6295 [kblum@grar.com](mailto:kblum@grar.com)). Thanks for your help!!! Let's make every dollar count towards a great time for our kids!!

## Response to Intervention (RTI)

Response to Intervention (RTI) is an initiative adopted by schools to help students who are struggling with academic areas such as reading, math, and behavior.

Allendale Public School is currently implementing RTI for the second year. The Ottawa Area Intermediate School District supports the K-5 staff with the process in providing professional development for staff and administrators to create a program that matches the needs of the students within the district. Specifically, the program is titled, Michigan's Integrated Behavior & Learning Support System (MiBLSi). Area districts are supported with the MiBLSi project in analyzing current trends in reading and behavior management, and then interventions and systems are created to enhance student achievement.

To date, the district has implemented a Positive Behavior Support System to encourage positive behaviors in all areas of the school environment. Teachers and Title 1 staff in grades K-5 are providing interventions within the school day to support students in reading and math. The interventions are focused, 30 minute lessons taught to small groups of students. In grades 6-8, teachers have implemented a reading block each day to focus on reading strategies and create enthusiasm for reading. Students are also offered math support based on testing scores. The high school has done an excellent job over the past few years in supporting students in academics to make sure high school requirements are being met for graduation.

More than ever, teachers and support staff are looking at each and every child and tailoring their educational program to meet specific needs. The district is truly giving each child the opportunity to be "Powered by Possibilities!"

## MUSIC BOOSTER BLOCK

### Upcoming Events:

- Keycard Sale going on now through Oct. 31st
- Oct. 21 – Nov. 4, Lakeshore Candle Sale
- Dec. 12 – MS Choir Concert
- Dec. 13 – MS Band Concert
- Dec. 14 & 15 – HS Holiday Pops Concert
- Jan. 28 – Annual Chili Cook-Off



If you have a Chili Entry or items to donate for the raffle, please contact Crisly at sauter@altelco.net

Make a donation of \$5 or more to the Uniform Fund and receive a Youngers Department Store Coupon Book good during their Community Days Event Nov. 11 & 12.

The Music Boosters will also have a number this year for Spartan Stores "Cash for Class". Please enter our number when registering your YES card online!

If you'd like to be on our mailing list, please email us at allendalemusicboosters@gmail.com



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"Congrats to our Boys and Girls Cross Country teams, who both won the Falcon Division of the Inaugural Allendale Cross Country Invitational. Way to go runners!"

**School Calendars**

View our School Calendars online at [www.allendale.k12.mi.us](http://www.allendale.k12.mi.us)

You will find important dates, special events, and more information to keep you and your family up to date!



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# Allendale Middle School Athletic Boosters

The Allendale Middle School Athletic Boosters (AMSAB) is a newly organized group interested in supporting all middle school athletics. The objective of this association is to promote, sustain, and improve athletic programs at the middle school level in addition to maintaining the high standard of integrity and harmony within our middle school athletic programs.

To do this, involves funding. Currently, our funding is generated by revenues received at the middle school indoor concession stand. Throughout the year, we will try other fundraiser ideas to supplement our current revenue. Our goal is to use these monies to support all athletic teams at our school! Currently, we have two booster representatives representing the following sports.

They are: Volleyball, Basketball (boys and girls), Wrestling, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Track, and Soccer.

Anyone (over the age of 18) can be involved in the AMSAB. We need many individuals to make this successful! Currently, we have a formalized set of working bylaws and an executive board. Any and all new members are welcome! Our meetings are scheduled for 6:45 pm on the second Monday of every month and are held in the High School cafeteria. You may also find us on Facebook at Allendale Middle School Athletics. Here, we post game results from the middle school events, as well as, any additional information that needs to be shared! We also have a link on the Allendale Public Schools' website. We invite you to check us out!

We are excited about this new opportunity and are confident the efforts put forth will benefit our kids! If you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact any of the individuals listed below:

Maria Huistra:  
mdhuistra@allcom.net

Kristen Corner:  
chrisandkris@allcom.net

Scott Walstra:  
Walstrasco@allendale.k12.mi.us

Cheryl Wynsma:  
chwynsma@charter.net

Jamie Wynsma:  
jamiewynsma@msn.com



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## Allendale Athletic Department News

2011-2012 Season Tickets can still be purchased at the Athletic Office in the High School!

Our final HOME football game is Friday, October 21st vs. Hopkins. Come out and support our Falcons!

Allendale will be hosting the Regional Cross Country Meet for Divisions 1 through 4 on October 29th. The cost is \$5 per person, with a \$20 family maximum. Because this meet is an MHSAA tournament meet, Allendale or OK Conference passes will not be taken.

### IMPORTANT HIGH SCHOOL WINTER SEASON DATES:

November 7th First Practice for Girls Basketball and Competitive Cheer

November 14th First Practice for Boys Basketball and Bowling

November 21st First Practice for Wrestling

### IMPORTANT MIDDLE SCHOOL WINTER SEASON DATES:

October 31st First Practice for Boys 7/8 Basketball and 6-8 Cheer

January 23rd, 2012 First Practice for Girls 7/8 Basketball and 6-8 Wrestling

Reminder: Athletic Participation Fees (\$75 HS, \$50 MS, \$175 family maximum) can be paid in the Athletic Office.

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## Pirates Take Over the Middle School

September 29 was Pirate Day in the middle school. P.I.R.A.T.E.S. stands for Prepare to succeed, Inspect the instructions, The 3 R's, Two A's, Turn back and check it out, Estimate, Survey. It is a testing strategy with the goal of helping students deal with test anxiety. Teachers presented the strategy to students during Reading Block on September 29. To help students understand the process, teachers and students were given the opportunity to dress like pirates. No one was allowed to 'walk the plank though!'

*Technology helps Jessica Jourden and Glenn Haraburda, from Mrs. Luban's class, listen to reading and practice their fluency.*



*Spencer Westmoreland and Kendrick Rhines partner read in Miss Lam's class.*




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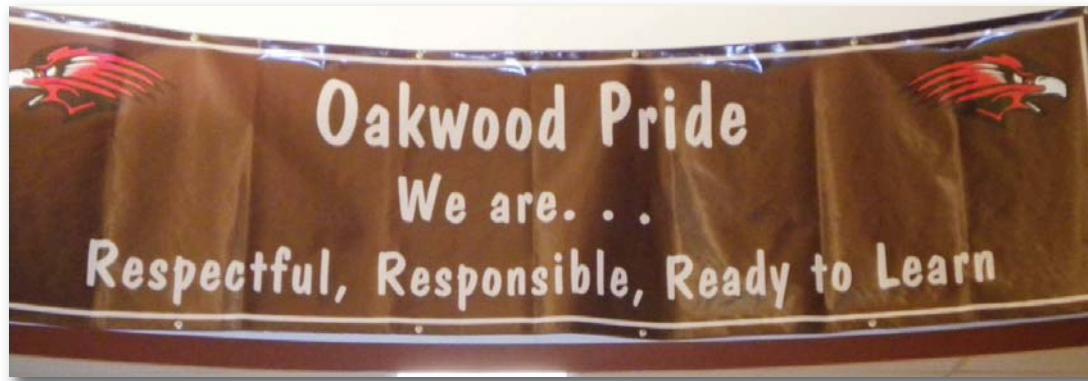
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Mrs. Weycker's class learns about Japanese fish in Mrs. Falkowski's art class.

## Annual Reports

Our annual reports are available for public review on our website at [www.allendale.k12.mi.us](http://www.allendale.k12.mi.us). If you do not have access to a computer or the internet, please feel free to pick up a copy from your school office or District Office.

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# Sidewalk Prophets

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Group Sales \$10 (15 or more)

Individual \$12 • At the Door \$15

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