

MAY NEWSLETTER

2021

Superintendent's Corner

The week of May 3rd-7th is Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week. At Brimley Area Schools, we employ 37 teachers, 24 support staff, and 6 administrators to educate our youth. The job of a school employee is very difficult, challenging, and yet, rewarding. Too often, however, the work they do goes unnoticed or unrecognized. During Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week, please take the opportunity to say to our employees: "Thank you for what you do in educating our youth, we appreciate your efforts."

Employee of the Year

Each year we recognize an employee of the year who goes above and beyond the call of duty. This year we have chosen two employees. First, **Mr. Jason Hoornstra** was chosen from the support personnel. Mr. Hoornstra is a bus driver and has been working in the district for the past nine years. Mr. Hoornstra always makes sure to put the safety and welfare of his riders first and foremost. Mr. Hoornstra took on extra duties this year to help make sure our district was extra clean. He also was in charge of the extra cleaning of our bus fleet after each route. Mr. Hoornstra has done an exceptional job and we want to commend him.

Second, **Mr. Dustin Conley** was chosen from the faculty to be our other Employee of the Year. Mr. Conley has been teaching at the District for the last two years. He teaches sixth grade and specializes in Math and Science. This was said by an employee when nominating Mr. Conley for this award. "Each day Mr. Conley has the kids totally engaged in whatever he is teaching. He is always calm, respectful, understanding, and courteous in all interactions. Some people have a give for teaching our future generations and he is someone I see as having this give."

CONGRATULATIONS to our Employees of the Year!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Mrs. Shaunna MacDonald:**

On behalf of the EUPISD Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) we are notifying you that you have been nominated by your school district as the "Educator of the Year". We thank you for

being someone who strives to provide excellence in supporting and empowering students with disabilities.

You will be receiving a golden  award in the near future from your administrator!

End of the year

As you know, with the end of the year approaching, many events are on the calendar. Please make sure to follow our online calendar for those events. Also, please check with your respective offices for information on how and when these events will occur. It is unfortunate that we must make changes to how we do these events, but we still want to hold them with the necessary mitigation strategies. Thank you for your patience as we finish up this school year.

Thank You

The year is quickly coming to an end. It seems like we just began this journey to educate our children during a pandemic and now the end is at hand. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents, grandparents, teachers, paraprofessionals, board members, administrators, administrative assistants, food service, coaches, and transportation employees for all the extra work it took to make this year happen. This year would not have been as successful without all of the extra hard work.

Respectfully,
Mr. Reattoir
Superintendent

NEWS FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL

Greetings from the desk of the high school/middle school principal. May is here! There are 22 school days left. The weeks and days will fly by. Please make sure you are encouraging your child (ren) to stay on top of their school work. The baseball and softball teams have already played their first few games and the track teams have already had meets. We do have home events coming up in May, so come on out and support the Bays as they represent Brimley.

Graduation for the class of 2021 will take place on May 30th, beginning at 1:30 p.m. The seniors and their parents will be given a survey to fill out on possible locations. If we have to host the ceremony inside there will be limited seating for parents and family members only.

The Honor's Award Ceremony is May 19th at 6:30 p.m. in the Karl Parker Memorial Gymnasium. Students that made the honor roll for the first three quarters and the semester and had no grade lower than a C will be honored with Brimley Schools highest honor, the Honor Medallion. It will be a presentation of the honor awards only due to covid restrictions. On Thursday, May 20th, the honor students will be receiving a catered lunch from 11:30 – 12:30. Congratulations to our students that received invitations to this event.

We are currently working on class scheduling for next school year. This can be a cumbersome process, but we are hoping to have them done by the middle or end of May.

We would like to congratulate two of our students on their recent success. Hazel Garvon placed second in the Patriot's Pen for the District level competition. She received a plaque with her name on it and a \$75 check. Macie Smart also placed second in the Voice of Democracy competition. She too received a plaque and \$75 check. Congratulations to both young ladies on a job well done!

Recently students in grades 8-11 began the State assessment with the PSAT and SAT tests. These tests are all aligned to college readiness and are part of the College Board Suite of assessments which culminate with the SAT in 11th grade. This allows students, parents, and staff to track student progress from one year to the next and to help students remediate between assessments. It is a great benefit to all Michigan students that our State pays for 3 PSATs and a free college entrance exam (the SAT) and that it is provided during the school day in a familiar environment by school personnel.

Here are some key pieces of follow up information:

Students “own” their data and results. The College Board provides all students with the opportunity to set up an online account to access their scores in the reporting portal. As they create the account they will be asked for our school’s code, it is: xxx. Student scores will be available individually in the reporting portal at the end of May before the school will be provided with scores for the cohort as a whole at the end of June. For instructions on how to set up a College Board account [click here](#). To see a video demonstration, [click here](#).

Once students have created College Board accounts they can choose to create a Khan Academy account and to link the accounts for access to FREE online official SAT practice. For information on how to link College Board and Khan Academy accounts [click here](#); or watch a [video here](#).

When results become available in the portal we will notify you to go online and check your student’s scores. We will also provide information that will help you to navigate the reporting portal and to make sense of the various score reports available. One exciting feature is that every student will be able to see the actual test question, if they have the correct or incorrect answer and some feedback on next steps to make improvements before they test again the following year. We look forward to providing you with more information on this at the end of May.

The last piece of information is to let you know that the last day of school, June 11th is a Friday. We have been doing virtual Friday’s for the majority of the school year. But on June 11th we will be face to face. To be virtual students would need computers, but the school needs to collect these computers for routine maintenance in preparation for the 2021-2022 school year. So we will be face to face to take exams on Friday, June 11th, to turn in computers, textbooks and calculators. Thank you.

That wraps it up from the desk of the high school/middle school principal. If you ever have questions, concerns or words of encouragement, feel free to stop by the office. We are always happy to have community members give their valuable input.

Best Wishes

Ms. Joyel Hyvarinen

News From Elementary Land

Happy Spring! Hopefully Mother Nature will get the memo and turn up the temperature soon. May is a busy month with many exciting events and activities happening. As the school year winds down, please keep attendance in mind and make sure any missing days are still called into the office.

Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher Appreciation Week starts Monday May 3rd. Please reach out and thank a teacher for everything they do. Especially this year, with all the newness, strangeness, and craziness the pandemic has caused, our teachers have really stepped up, gone the extra 100 miles, and sacrificed for our kids.

Outside Clothing

Even though it is technically spring, temperatures can remain chilly and there is still a chance we get some colder weather. Please make sure your students have adequate clothing for recess which would include coats, gloves, and hats. Boots are also still a necessity as the playground will get a little muddy as the temperature continues to rise.

Testing

5th Grade M-STEP testing will be finishing up in the coming week. 3rd, 4th, and 6th grades have begun their testing and will continue it throughout the first few weeks of May. These online assessments are designed to test a student's proficiency in our State's Curriculum Standards. Please make extra effort to ensure your student comes to school well rested and prepared to test. It would also be of great benefit to discuss the test with your children and reinforce the idea of doing their best. Any questions about the test or its procedure can be directed to your child's teacher, or to Mr. Suggitt.

The final round of NWEA MAP testing will take place during May. This test is different from the M-STEP in that it measures the growth of students throughout three points during the year (fall, winter and spring). Results will be sent home with your students closer to the end of the year.

Michigan's Read By Grade 3 Law

Michigan's Read by Grade 3 law was passed in 2016. It was designed to strengthen and reinforce elementary reading skills and sets requirements that schools must adhere to in order to accomplish this. To summarize, students in school will be assessed using a comprehensive set of diagnostic tests. At Brimley, we use the MAP test and Fountas and Pinnell assessments to diagnose our students. Students identified as struggling readers will be placed on an Individual Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP). Students on IRIPS will have access to our reading interventionists and other resources that are designed to help improve reading skills.

At the end of a student's 3rd grade year, they will take Michigan's M-STEP assessment. Students scoring below one grade level behind will be considered for mandatory retention under the Read By Grade 3 Law. Certain exceptions do exist, and students who fall under that stipulation will receive more information from both the state and district.

Further information will be sent out to this year's current 3rd grade class. If you are interested in learning more about the Read by Grade 3 Law, please visit the following links.

[Brimley School's Website - Info in Left Menu](#)

[Michigan.gov RBG3 Website](#)

May Dates

May 3 - Start of Teacher Appreciation
May 13th - Honor Roll Awards Lunch
May 17th - BOE Meeting
June 4th - Kindergarten Graduation
June 9th - 11th - Half Days
June 11th - Last Day of School

Pandemic EBT

Important information for parents or guardians of student's eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch at Brimley Area School.

What is the Pandemic-EBT Program?

The Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) Program gives food benefits to families with children who were not able to get free or reduced-price school meals due to COVID. You may hear about this benefit from other schools or in the media.

Who is eligible?

Being eligible for this program will depend on what school your student attends. Eligibility for the Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) Program can be different between schools within the same district.

What makes a school eligible for P-EBT?

A school building is eligible only if the building has had 5 school days in a row of reduced in-person hours due to COVID.

What could make my student eligible for P-EBT?

- 1) If the school they attend is eligible for P-EBT **and**
- 2) If your student normally gets free and reduced meals at school **and**
- 3) If your student is not getting instruction in-person for some or all the month.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) issues P-EBT benefits based on:

- How each school building reports their eligibility
- How most of the students attend school during the month

There may be months when your student's attendance was different from what the school reported. In that case, you may be able to have your student's benefit level reconsidered. Your request to be reconsidered must be submitted by June 30, 2021. In the month(s) below your school reported primarily in-person. Your student(s) may be P-EBT eligible if they attended class on-line, for some time or all the time in the following month(s):

September 2020, October 2020, January 2021, February 2021, March 2021, and April 2021

For more information, visit Michigan.gov/PEBT or call 1-833-905-0028.

