



Viking Voice

Bronson Community Schools Quarterly Newsletter
2015-16 Volume 3, Issue 1

Viking Pride is Shining Through

School is in full swing, and it's wonderful to have the students filling the halls again. Students are already involved in fall performances, athletic events and academic competitions. From our new kindergarteners, who have learned the routines of school, to our Glen Oaks students taking dual enrollment right here in Bronson, everyone is off to a great start.

Of course, preparation for school starts well before the busses roll down the road. Staff are busy in the summer with professional development opportunities. In July, five days of training were provided. Offerings included a focus on reading comprehension, science,



Bronson teachers sharpen their skills during Google Camp in July.

language arts instructional strategies, Google Camp and targeting interventions to meet the needs of all learners. The majority of the staff were involved in at least one of these events. Thanks to staff writing grants for our district in their off time, our students will benefit from new technology upgrades this year as well. (See p3 for information on the grants.)

Additionally, everyone attended the kick-off presentation by national presenter and educational consultant Anthony Muhammad. Dr. Muhammad has written educational books such as, *The Will to Lead* and *the Skill to Teach; Transforming Schools at Every Level* (2011). As a native of Michigan, as well as an award winning teacher and administrator, he brings credibility and a solid depth of knowledge to his presentations. We were able to provide this

One of our young community volunteers during our playground work day!

(Continued on p2)

IN THIS ISSUE

Viking Pride
Athletic Boosters
Fall Play
Upcoming Events
Technology Grants
Making It Cool To Be Kind
Bowling Team
Newsletter Sign-Up



Get the latest news and updates!
Search for **BronsonRocks!**

Numbers to Know:

Anderson Elementary
517.369.3234

Ryan Elementary
517.369.3254

Bronson Jr/Sr High School
517.369.3230

Administration
517.369.3260

(Continued from p1) opportunity through county collaboration with other districts.

Additionally, collaboration between our community and district staff has resulted in facility improvements for the children in our district. Viking Safe Play, a group of parents that came together to raise money for our playgrounds at Ryan and Anderson Schools, provided supplies for items such as painting, cement repairs and new swings. The Board of Education provided slides and ground cover needed to ensure we met safety standards. Bronson Grounds and Maintenance Crew, as well as volunteer teachers, Rotary Club Members and community members came together for a day of painting and upgrades. It was fun to see the hard work pay off!

Thanks to the Viking Open, a golf fundraiser that benefits our athletic department, and our Athletics Boosters, we have additional updates, such as the gym floor in the Chicago Street gym. Our tennis team and their parents are working with our Grounds and Maintenance Department to improve the grounds around the courts. Crack repairs were made to the courts in an effort to provide a safe playing area this season.



Chicago Street gymnasium floor. Photo courtesy The Daily Reporter.

This teamwork and collaboration is reflective of our mission to provide the best education that ensures all students learn at high levels. It is with pride and gratitude that I am able to share these great examples of people working together to improve our school. Partnerships between families, schools and communities provide the foundation that ensures our students succeed.

Teresa Belote, Superintendent
Bronson Community Schools

Athletic Boosters Give Boost to Facilities

Thanks to the Bronson Athletic Boosters, Bronson Community Schools now has several upgraded facilities!

The Football Stadium Press Box was updated in mid-July. The boosters spent \$7,800 for new windows, doors, and siding along with a room built inside the press box so coaches from each team will have their own space.



The Bronson Athletic Boosters were formed to provide financial assistance, moral support, and volunteer help for all Bronson athletic programs as needed. They raise funds through spirit wear sales, a reverse raffle with the Bronson Rotary Club, progressive raffle, Polish Festival Truck Pulls, and memorial donations. Within the past few years, the Bronson Athletic Boosters have purchased and supported over \$130,000 worth of projects for our district.

If you would like more information or to join the Boosters, the next meeting will be held Sunday, November 8 at 7 pm in the Bronson Junior/Senior High School Library.

“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” -Aesop

Bronson Thespians Present Robin Hood

The Bronson Thespians will present "Robin Hood" this fall. Students are involved in every aspect of the production, from acting roles to lighting, directing, and set design.

The production premieres on Thursday, November 5 at 7 pm at the Bronson Theatre and will run through Sunday, November 8. Tickets are available from cast and crew members as well as at the door during the show. Bring the entire family to enjoy this classic adventure story!

ROBIN HOOD



Grants Received for Technology Upgrades

Bronson Community Schools is slated to receive roughly \$29,000 in grants this fall for technology.

Teacher John Schull applied for and received \$4,000 from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation to improve elementary students reading skills. The second grant was a cooperative effort between teacher Lisa Franks and local farmers. "Growing Our Math Skills with Tablets" was awarded through America's Farmers Grow Rural Education from the Monsanto Fund. Bronson Community Schools was the only district in the state of Michigan to receive a \$25,000 grant this year.

More information on the grants and photos can be found at www.BronsonSchools.org.



2015 WINNER

Upcoming Events:

October

- 14 Picture Day at Ryan Elementary
- 15 Picture Day at Anderson Elementary
- 15 Family Literacy Night at Anderson Elementary 5:30 to 7:30 pm
- 20 Family Involvement Night at Ryan Elementary
- 27 Junior High/High School Choral Concert at Church of Christ 7 pm
- 29 BHS Make it Cool to Be Kind Assembly

November

- 2 Board of Education Meeting BHS at 6:30 pm
- 2-6 PTO Scholastic Book Fair
- 3 10th Grade Visits to BACC
- 4 Picture Retake Day Bronson Jr/Sr High School
- 5 Fall Play at Theatre 7 pm
- 4-6 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 6 Half Day for Students Fall Play at Theatre 7 pm
- 7 Fall Play at Theatre 7 pm
- 8 Fall Play at Theatre 2 pm
- 9 PTO Meeting at Anderson Elementary 6:30 pm
- 11 BACC Open House 6-8 pm
- 13 No School for Students Professional Development
- 18 Picture Retake Day Ryan Elementary and Anderson Elementary
- 21 PTO Superhero Run
- 25 Half Day for Students
- 26 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
- 27 No School for Students

Follow us on Facebook for weekly calendar updates! Search "Bronson Rocks"

Laurie Stewart Makes It Cool To Be Kind at BHS

Last spring, the Branch County Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Council granted Bronson Community Schools \$7,000 to fund the "Making It Cool To Be Kind" Program at Bronson High School.

Unlike one-day programs that create short-term excitement and change, this student-led, staff-supported, program takes place over the course of up to 18 months and is designed to create sustainable and systemic long-term change. Students are empowered to:

- Respect classmates, parents, and teachers
- Increase learning ability and emotional intelligence
- Reduce conflict
- Eliminate racial tension
- Decrease discipline problems and choose right behavior



The student committee takes time out for a "selfie" photo with Laurie Stewart.

Ms. Stewart has already begun working with staff and a student committee as a part of the program. On Thursday, October 29, the school will host Ms. Stewart. The day will begin with an assembly. Every student and every staff member participates in the morning assembly that dramatically inspires students to respect themselves and others. In the afternoon, the BHS team will receive hands-on training, while teachers receive resources to help students continue to process and act upon new convictions.

"Our vision is to get students involved in increasing awareness of unkind behavior and pro-actively work to create a positive environment for all," states Superintendent Teresa Belote.



Bowling Team Rolls Forward

On August 29, the new Bronson High School Bowling Team held a cornhole tournament fundraiser and raffle, raising over \$2,300. Funds are being raised to fund the cost of team shirts, bags, lineage fee, tournament fees, travel expense, etc. If you would like to support the BHS Bowling Team, checks can be made out to Bronson High School (please indicate "Bowling Team" in the memo line).

Another fundraiser is being planned for October 17, 2015 at the Bronson Strike Zone. Bowling for the team will begin November 1, 2015 and run through February, 2016, any student grades 9-12 can bowl. If you know a student who would be interested in joining the team, please contact Linda Hyska at 517-617-9032.

Bronson Schools Alumni Brandon Ratkowski and Jimmy Green won the Bronson Bowling Team Fundraiser Cornhole Tournament.

Our next edition of Viking Voice will be sent via email only. Head to www.BronsonSchools.org and sign up to receive our news right in your email inbox!

