

# Betsie Valley Communicator

## February 2017



Dear Families,

It is so hard to believe that the first half of the school year is now over! Report cards have all been completed and will be sent home today.

Our students have also completed their winter benchmark assessments. Students in grades K-5 took Aimsweb assessments and students in grades 2-5 took NWEA assessments. Cultivating life-long learners that continue to grow over time is our main objective. We value using multiple assessments throughout the year to measure growth so we can accurately plan for continued student learning. These assessments help us to better understand where our students are in comparison with national learning standards. Over the last three years our students showed continued growth in math and reading. Since 2014, students meeting or exceeding their predicted growth in math has increased from 26% to 48% and 43% to 69% in reading. We continue to be encouraged by the growth our students are showing.

Along with the nationally-normed assessments that we deliver three times a year, the State of Michigan also administers a once a year assessment for students in grades 3-5. The MSTEP (formerly known as the MEAP) is the assessment the State uses to determine the ranking of a school in comparison to other schools in the State. The MSTEP is a relatively new assessment, having only been administered for the last two years, so the Michigan Department of Education had planned to wait until at least 2017 before using the results of this test to make "high stakes" decisions like releasing the Top to Bottom School Rankings and identify schools as priority schools. In late October, Governor Snyder removed control of school accountability from the Department of Education and moved the School Reform Office to the Treasury Department. Due to this move, Top to Bottom rankings were released in late January. This list has labeled Betsie Valley as a priority school, meaning we are in the bottom 5% of schools in the State. Here are a few factors impacting this rating:

- MSTEP only tests students in grades 3-8, 11.
- MSTEP tests students in grade 3 on ELA and Math
- MSTEP tests students in grade 4 on ELA, Math, and Science
- MSTEP tests students in grade 5 on ELA, Math, and Social Studies

When counting sample sizes, School Reform Office accounts a test if at least 30 students are in the size. Betsie Valley did not have a large enough population to count Science or Social Studies assessments. Betsie Valley is a relatively small building of 140 student. Since MSTEP only counts FAY (Full Academic Year) students in grades 3-5, that reduced the building sample size to 63

This year, MSTEP decided to take student growth ranking into count. In order to do this they had to eliminate all 3rd graders from consideration as they have only had 1 year of testing. This further reduced our sample size to 42 TOTAL students.

Only 42 student scores counted in the formula used by the School Reform Office to determine the building's rank on the Top to Bottom List. 23 of those students are now in 6th grade. Third grade student scores only accounted for a portion of the building ranking. Betsie Valley 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students had the highest reading scores in the district last year (52.60%). They also scored above the State average (46.00%). Betsie Valley 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students scored (52.60%) on the math assessment putting their average above the State average (45.20%) and the TBAISD average (49.70%).

Our School Improvement Team continues to focus on the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics. We introduced a new math program last year, Math Expressions, and are already seeing promising results. The District is currently researching a new language arts series to support the more rigorous academic expectations in reading and writing. Our School Improvement Team will also work with representatives from the Intermediate School District to help craft a plan for continued academic growth. Additionally, parental involvement is needed and will be a part of the plan. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact me at 231-378-4164 or [erfourtha@benzieschools.net](mailto:erfourtha@benzieschools.net).

The start of the second semester allows us to welcome Mrs. Reed, our music teacher, back to teach music on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Please remember there is an EARLY RELEASE on Friday, Feb. 17 at 11:50 am and NO SCHOOL on Monday, Feb. 20.

Have a wonderful February!

Amiee Erfourth

### Mission Statement

**The community of Betsie Valley will provide opportunities in a responsible, respectful and safe environment to empower students to learn and succeed in today's society**

NMCAA  
Head  
Start



## FREE PRESCHOOL



NMCAA Head Start &  
BCCS GSRP Preschool Programs are  
now taking applications for the **2017-18** school year.  
These are Free quality preschool programs promoting school  
readiness.

Children who will be **3 and 4 years-old**  
**on or before 9/01/17** are eligible to apply.

**Call now for an appointment in your area:**  
1-231-346-2116 or 1-800-632-7334

**Apply Now!**



### Calendar of Events

- 2/9 Honor Roll Assembly 3:00 pm
- 2/8 Count Day
- 2/14 Happy Valentine's Day
- 2/17 Early release 11:50
- 2/19 NO SCHOOL President's Day

### 100 Board Winners:

Hannah Rood	Joseph Tsuber
Ivy Routley	Lillian Hoeksema
Dominic McCumber	Gary Conrad
Wyatt Lamie	Leighia Wheelock
Cheyanna Tabbert	Alie Finzel



Inadequate housing?  
Unaffordable housing?  
Please come to a community forum →  
**We want to hear  
from you!**

**Wednesday  
Feb. 15th  
6-9pm**

Platte River Elementary School  
on US-31 in Honor, MI



We will provide a meal before talks, ideas and information sharing begin.  
If you need a ride, Benzie Bus will pick you up: (231) 325-3000.  
Childcare will be provided at the event.

For more information, contact Kay Band: (231) 882-9098  
**Advocates for Benzie County**

### 2nd marking Honor Roll

#### 3rd Grade:

ALL A's: Cayson Hogarth, Mia Tabora-Jones, Moraya Mosher

A/B Natalie Garske, Althea Gaylord, Zavier LaBonte, Irvin Meachum, Andie Oakley, Aiden Ratliff, Hannah Rood, Isaac Rosam

#### 4th Grade:

All A's: Alivia Cooper, Aidan Erfourth, Emily Osterloh, Joseph Tsuber

A/B: Payton Dennis, Charles Joan Jr., Seth Lamie, Brianna Ross, Zachary Tallman, Tammy Tinch, Crystine Whitbeck, Eli Workman

#### 5th Grade:

All A's: Maciee Jones, Jonathan Rollo

A/B: Gabriela Atkinson, Dreyvan Campbell, Alie Finzel Dominic McCumber, Emma Nord, Micah Pittman, Starlee Rennaker



- 2/4 Emma Hamilton
- 2/7 Hailey Brinkman
- 2/7 Katelyn Brinkman
- 2/12 Chucky Joan
- 2/13 Cayson Hogarth
- 2/13 Morgan Kalosky
- 2/15 Moraya Mosher
- 2/16 Kallie Baldwin
- 2/16 Cheyanna Tabbert
- 2/16 Tammy Tinch
- 2/17 Conner Swisher
- 2/19 Shawnee Tabbert
- 2/28 Tailor Gokey

### STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Kindergarten: William Campana, Maddy Baumgartner

Kindergarten: Annalesia Frieholtz, Reece Raney

1st grade: Wyatt Lamie, Izzy York

2nd grade: Gary Conrad, Tony McDaniel

3rd grade: Dalton Tabbert, Althea Gaylord

4th grade: Zachary Tallman, Nathan Chrzanowski

5th grade: Ken Currie, Maciee Jones



NORTHWEST MICHIGAN  
Health Services Inc

**February 16<sup>th</sup> 8:30am-7pm**

**Free Kids Dental Screenings**

**Goodie Bags**

**\$100 gift certificate raffle**

**Insurance Enrollment Specialists**

**the Tooth Fairy will even be here!!**

Screen Agers—Growing up in the digital age.

Screenagers reveals how tech time impacts kids' development and offers solutions on how adults can empower kids to best navigate the digital world and find balance.

This film will be shown at the theater in Frankfort on 2-12 at 2PM.

The hyperlink is for the trailer. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQx2XOBXgZg>

## FOOD DRIVE

Through a coordination of the 2 NHS groups, the Frankfort vs Benzie, Battle of the Pig, food drive will once again be held this year. The food drive will begin next Monday and end at the Frankfort vs Benzie basketball game in Frankfort on Feb 8th. This is a community vs community food drive with all proceeds going to BACN. The award is a ceramic pig that is passed from school to school each year. Frankfort has the pig and we want it back, but we need your help.

They will be picking up the food on February 7th.



A LITTLE 5TH GRADE CAMPING FUN!!

