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Bison Bulletin

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May School Election—Reminder

Local school board candidates who wish to be elected at the May 5, 2009 election must file an Affidavit of Identity and a Nominating Petition no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 10, 2009. A \$100 non-refundable filing fee may be filed in lieu of petitions. Copies of the Affidavit of Identity and Nominating Petition may be picked up in the following offices: Superintendent of Schools, City of New Buffalo, New Buffalo Township, or at the courthouse in St. Joseph.

There will be two four-year seats open at the May 5 election.

Instant Alert—Reminder to Register and Update

Instant Alert for Schools is an essential tool for notification and communication. Within minutes of an emergency, we can use *Instant Alert* to deliver a clear message to parents or guardians by telephone (home or work), cell phone, email, pager, or PDA in any combination.

Instant Alert will also allow us to notify you of a school closing due to inclement weather. Letters were sent home in October giving instructions regarding the creation of your online profile. If you need assistance with your profile, please go to <https://instantalert.honeywell.com> and click on **Help Request** link on the lower right hand side of the page or contact the Technology Office at **469-6056**.

Use the following steps to register:

1. Go to the website listed above.
2. If you are not a staff member in the school, click on "Parent" in the New User box.
3. If you are a staff member, use the user name and password given to you by the school.
4. Complete the student info form. Click "Submit."
5. Complete the corresponding screen. Click "Submit."
6. After receiving the Confirmation message, click "Proceed" to get started with Instant Alert.
7. Remember your Login Name and Password so you may use it to update your profile.

News from the Superintendent

February is the time of year we really start planning for the next school year. This month entails:

Budgeting: Principals and supervisors start building their budget based on program needs and areas where we can make improvement. We begin to get information on revenues, retirement costs, etc. Since we recently finished teacher negotiations, we will have a good estimate of salaries, insurance, etc.

Scheduling: For the 2009-2010 school year, we will be adding 15 minutes to the instructional day. Our school improvement teams are considering options to review with each building's instructional staff and recommendations to the Board of Education in March. One of our goals is to implement a Spanish language program in the elementary for all students. The research on teaching a foreign language in elementary school is very positive:

1. Studies show that students who begin foreign language in elementary school develop a higher level of proficiency.
2. Development of a global perspective.
3. Enhancement of cognitive skills; that is, it enhances and enriches development in basic skills.
4. Enhancement of communication skills. The study of foreign language has shown positive affects on memory and listening skills.
5. There are also personal benefits, i.e., a global perspective, cultural understanding, and enhancing career potential in the global marketplace.

North Central Accreditation: We will be updating our self-report on all of the accreditation standards. We have chosen to engage in a more rigorous accreditation program that is district-wide instead of each individual school. We will have an on-site visitation in April to verify our compliance and receive feedback to make additional growth.

New Buffalo Area Schools
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New Buffalo, MI 49117

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Berrien Community Foundation Scholarships

The following scholarships are available through this foundation, but for the complete list, visit www.berriencommunity.org. Also, please check with our Guidance Office for the many scholarships that are available to our students.

The Heart of Cook Scholarship Program—available to Berrien County high school students excelling in the areas of engineering and technical disciplines and pursuing those technical goals.

Terence Joseph Mulvihill Scholarship—available to NBAS students.

Dunn Scholarship—for part time or full time undergraduate or graduate students demonstrating financial need and attending Andrews University, Lake Michigan College, Southwestern Michigan College, or Western Michigan University.

Middle School Ski Trip

The Annual New Buffalo Middle School Ski Trip to Swiss Valley is scheduled for February 12. This event will allow our Middle School students to have the opportunity to learn how to ski and the program is designed to give all students an introduction to the sport of downhill skiing. This event supports our physical education curriculum and enhances our healthy school environment initiative by introducing NBMS students to the enjoyment of winter recreation opportunities. As always, parents are welcome, but need to provide their own transportation.

Please call Mrs. Hartley at 469-6026 for more information.

Events

- 2/02 BB (Boys 9th./JV/V) - @ LMC, 4:15
MS VB—@ Mich Lutheran, 5:30
Board of Education—**Meeting Postponed to 2/04**
- 2/03 JV/V BB (Girls) - home w/LMC, 6:00
- 2/04 Bowling, 3:30
MS VB—home w/Eau Claire, 5:30
Bd of Education, Comm/Bd Rm, **7:30 (time change)**
- 2/05 BB (Boys 9th) - home w/Mich Lutheran, 4:30
BB (Boys JV/V) - home w/Eau Claire, 6:00
- 2/06 BB (Girls JV/V) - @ Eau Claire, 6:00
- 2/09 BB (Girls JV/V) - home w/Mich Lutheran, 6:00
- 2/11 Bowling, 3:30
MS VB—@ Covert, 5:30
BB (Girls JV/V)—@ River Valley, 6:00
Bison Boosters Meeting, MS/HS Cafeteria, 7:00
- 2/13 BB (Boys 9th) - @ Gobles, 4:30
No School (PLC day)
- 2/14 BB (Girls JV/V) - @ Brandywine, 6:00
- 2/16 MS VB—@ Grace Christian, 5:30
Board of Education, Comm/Bd Room, 7:00
No school—Great Americans' Day
- 2/17 BB (Boys 9th) - home w/Buchanan, 5:30
BB (Girls V) - @ Countryside, 7:30
- 2/18 MS VB—home w/LMC, 5:30
- 2/19 Elementary PTO Meeting, Cafeteria, 6:00
- 2/23 BB (Girls JV/V) - home w/Covert, 6:00
—**Parents' Night**
- 2/24 BB (Boys 9th/JV/V) - @ Covert, 4:30
MS VB—home w/Mich Lutheran, 5:30
- 2/25 BB (Girls JV/V) - @ Bridgman, 6:00
- 2/26 BB (Boys 9th) - @ Benton Harbor, 4:15
- 2/27 BB (Boys 9th/JV/V) - @ Mich Lutheran, 4:00
- 3/4-5 1/2 days (exams)
- 3/06 No school (Curr Plan Day)
- 4/03 No school (PLC for teachers in a.m.)
- 4/6-10 Spring Break (classes resume 4/13)
- 4/23 1/2 day—Parent/Teacher Conf (1-4 and 6-8)
- 4/24 No school (PLC Day)
- 5/22 No school (PLC Day)
- 5/25 No school—Memorial Day
- 6/07 Graduation
- 6/9-10 1/2 days (exams)