

The ParenTeacher Connection

Oct./Nov. 2008

Denise Jackson, Principal ☎ Gary Sasek, Assistant Principal

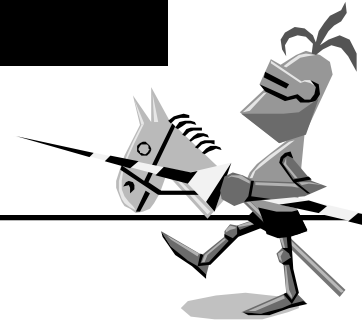
Principal's Piece...

We hope that everyone is finally settling into the new school year. It is difficult to believe it is October already. We are trying something new with the IEP's this year and hope to have all of the MoCI and SCI done by Halloween. Student Literacy continues to be a goal at Bovenschen and our students will work on these skills in a number of ways. Upcoming activities include the Pumpkin Patch as well as Trick or Treating for Halloween. Watch for notes home.

As you know we have two Alhambra Caravans that do wonderful things for our students. On September 18, Galacia Caravan provided their annual back to school luncheon for our students. It is an event that the students really look forward to. Sancho caravan donated \$2700 to the school to purchase Therapeutic Listening Systems for the students. This will help many of our students deal with sensory issues. Sancho Caravan will also be treating our students to their annual Christmas luncheon on December 4, 2008. Lunch is catered by one of their members who owns a catering business and banquet hall, Santa will be here as well as passing out a gift to every student. These groups are dedicated to helping students with disabilities. We truly appreciate what they do for our students.

Denise wishes to thank everyone who offered their condolences and concern while her family coped with her husband's illness.

Denise Jackson, principal
Gary Sasek, assistant principal



News From the Nurse...

Reminders for the school year:

- The cold and flu season is coming! Flu shots are available at the Macomb County Health Department for adults and children. For flu shot information, call 586-469-5372.
- Remember that the school is a place for healthy children and it is important to reduce the spread of disease by not sending your child to school if they are sick. Common symptoms of the flu include:
 - Fever
 - Headache
 - Extreme tiredness
 - Cough
 - Sore throat
 - Runny or stuffy nose
 - Muscle aches
 - Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea
- Remember that good hand washing is very important in stopping the spread of disease.
- Please be sure that your emergency numbers are always current.

As always, if you have any questions, or if there are any changes in your child's medical status, please contact me.

Pat Bruss R.N., Bovenschen

Dog Biscuits for Sale...

The students in Jenny Ludwig's room (Room #1) make and sell all-natural, preservative-free dog biscuits for just \$1.00 a bag. Batches are made weekly.



Stop by Room #1 for a bag of fresh biscuits today!

Grant for Picturing America at Bovenschen...

Helen Horn, MoCI Teacher, received a grant to benefit students at Bovenschen this school year. Picturing America is a nationwide initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and is conducted in cooperation with the American Library Association (ALA). It brings masterpieces of American Art into schools and public libraries nationwide. This grant uses art to teach and stimulate and includes forty reproductions of American Art and a teacher's resource book to assist in teaching social studies, math, science, and language arts.



Box Tops for Education Program...

We've recently launched our 2008-2009 Box Tops for Education fund-raising campaign.

This year, we've set a goal of earning \$900.00 through Box Tops to purchase different educational supplies for our building.



The Box Tops for Education program offers three easy ways to make a difference through everyday activities like buying groceries and shopping online. You can also help Bovenschen by signing up with the Box Tops website at boxtops4education.com. You'll get updates on our school's Box Tops earnings, money-saving coupons, family-pleasing recipes, chances to win Bonus Box Tops, the latest Box Tops news and much, much more. Best of all, it's completely free!

All you have to do to help Bovenschen is clip the Box Tops for Education coupon from groceries that you already purchase and then send them in to school. Here, our students work throughout the year to count them and mail them in to be redeemed for cash for school.

Thank you so much for your continued support with this program! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Box Tops Coordinator, Katie Morton, at 586.757.7880 or Kmorton@misd.net.

News from Occupational and Physical Therapy...

For those students returning from summer vacation, the OT/PT Department welcome you back. For everybody else, Hi!

We have had a change to our department. Occupational therapist Anita Willis took another position within the MISD with Support and Related Services. We will miss her. A very nice Ann Mulrenin is currently substituting as they look to replace Anita's position permanently.

Shoe Tying Tip:

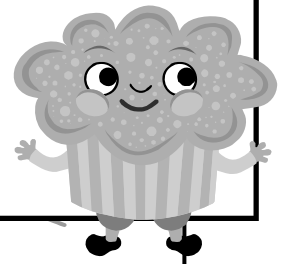
Do single knots keep coming undone? Are you tired of untying double knots? Try going around the loop twice before you make the second loop. This will cinch it tight. You'll have to pull both knots tight at the end to make the knot tight because it's a slightly bigger knot. But you can untie it just like a regular knot.

Have a great year,
The OT and PT Departments

Munch on a Muffin...

Room 14 (Melissa Reeves' room) would like families to know that we have large muffins for sale in a basket in the office throughout the week. They are purchased fresh each Monday afternoon. The cost is \$1.00 per muffin which can be placed in the cup. We operate these sales through the "honor system" and profits directly benefit the classroom.

Help yourself next time you are in the office! Thank you for your support!



Our Mission Statement

“Bovenschen School enables students to achieve their highest level of independence and self-esteem in order to face the challenges in their daily lives. This requires teamwork with shared responsibility and participation by students, parents, staff and community.”

The Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD) is an equal opportunity employer. It is the policy of the MISD that no person on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, marital status or disability shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity for which the MISD is responsible.

The MISD will provide, upon request with advance notice, appropriate auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford an individual with a disability equal opportunity to participate in the service, programs and activities conducted by the MISD. To request auxiliary aids or services, contact Rosetta Mullen, 586.228.3309. MISD Test Telephone (TTY) 586.228.8040.

October & November 2008 Calendar of Events

10/06-08/2008	Picture Days at Bovenschen
10/09/2008	Flu Shots at Bovenschen
10/09/2008	PTO Presentation on Children's Hospital – 6:30 p.m.
10/16/2008	Parent to Parent Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
10/23/2008	Bovenschen Blood Drive
10/24/2008	PBS Assembly Bovenschen Gym – 10:00 a.m.
10/23/2008	SXI Parent Teacher Conferences 3:45 p.m.
10/31/2008	Halloween Trick or Treating – 10:00 a.m.
11/05/2008	Turning 18 Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
11/11/2008	Parent to Parent Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

“Operation Christmas Child” Comes to Bovenschen...



Our school has decided to participate again this year in “Operation Christmas Child,” sponsored by Samaritan’s Purse. We would like our students to be able to give Christmas gifts to children around the world who don’t receive any.

The gift should be small in size because we must use shoe boxes as the containers. Each box needs to be wrapped (lid and box separately due to Customs) and filled with gifts for each category: boys or girls, ages 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14 years old. We are planning to have our students pack and wrap the boxes.

You may participate by sending any of the items listed below:
 Shoe boxes,
 Wrapping paper,
 \$7.00 to cover shipping costs or any amount, (the cost is \$7.00 per box),
 School supplies (pencils, crayons, paper, coloring books),
 Small toys (cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, yo-yos),
 Hygiene items (toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, washcloth),
 Other items (hard candy, mints, gum, shirts, socks, ball caps)

All items need to be here at school by Friday, October 31st so we can pack them and make it by the drop-off deadline.



Last year we filled 80 boxes and hope to fill 100 this year. We would like to make Christmas special for children here in the U.S. and in countries abroad.

Thank you for your support.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THE PARENTEACHER CONNECTION...

Parents, Guardians and Caregivers:

If you have information like this that you would like to include in the ParenTeacher Connection, PLEASE don’t think twice about submitting it. This newsletter is for families to find out all of the great things that are going on at our school, but it should also be a tool that can be used to create strong, supportive relationships that work hand-in-hand with Parent-to-Parent, PTO and other systems that exist at Bovenschen.

To submit information to the ParenTeacher Connection, you can either go through Annette (Ahobrecht@mysd.net) or give it directly to Katie Morton (Kmorton@mysd.net) in Room #24.

For the safety of our students and staff, please do not park in the circle when dropping off or picking up your child. The circle area in front of the school is for buses only.



During the day we have several buses coming into the circle to unload and load students for outings throughout the day.

There is a designated parking area in front of the school for parents to drop off or pick up their child.

Thank you for your help and consideration in this matter.

PE Line Up...

Our PE Department is very excited to start a new school year. Our staff consists of Jacqueline Goosen- Adapted PE teacher, Rose Mumma- Adapted PE teacher, and Nate Campbell-pool paraprofessional. Throughout our program the students have the opportunity to participate in many sports, go on bowling trips, hike outside, and have some time swimming in the therapeutic pool. Jackie and Rose are both teaching in the gym and the pool so the students can benefit from both of their teaching styles.



What's New?

Our newest addition to the PE Staff is Nate Campbell. Nate has been a long time employee in the MISD through the AI Program. Nate has been with us since May and he has quickly caught on to his new role and has proved to be an awesome addition to our team. He is very excited to be working with our program and we could not be happier with how well he works with our students and with us. WELCOME NATE!!

We are continuing our school wide walking program called the Lancer Walk/Roll Challenge. All classes have the opportunity to participate and the main purpose of this program is to keep our students moving. As a school, we have walked across the State of Michigan from St. Clair Shores to Grand Haven, which adds up to 200 miles. We have now started our trek across the United States by traveling through each state capitol. We started our challenge in Augusta, Maine and we have traveled down to Annapolis, Maryland so far. Every month we will honor the classes who walked the most miles.

Thought for the Month - Reduce Stress

Easier said than done, stress busters come in many forms. Some techniques recommended by experts are to think positive thoughts. Spend 30 minutes a day doing something you like. Examples: Soak in a hot tub; walk on the beach or in a park; read a good book; visit a friend; play with your child; listen to soothing music; watch a funny movie. Get a massage, a facial or a haircut. Meditate. Count to ten before losing your temper or getting aggravated. Avoid difficult people when possible.

When seeing red, think pink clouds...then float on them!!!

Our upcoming events for September and October are as follows:

September Events: 22 & 23 – SXI Games @ Woodland
25 – Soccer Scrimmage @ Civic Center

October Events: 11 - State Soccer Individual Skills and Young Athlete Program @ Halmich Park
28 – Floor Hockey Scrimmage @ Lutz

We are happy to be teaching your child and hope to meet you in the near future. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

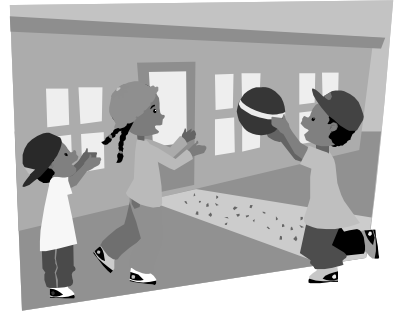
Jackie Goosen
Rose Mumma
Nate Campbell

Picture Days will be October 6, 7 and 8, 2008!



FROM THE SOCIAL WORKER. Annette Hobrecht

ATTENDANCE.Just a reminder that all children between 6 and 16 need to be in school. If a student is absent for 3 days in a row, the teacher will be calling to find out the reason for the absence. If a student starts missing more school, then it is brought to my attention. Too many absences might mean having to file truancy, and that's not fun for anybody!!



PARENT-TO-PARENT.For those of you who are new to our building, welcome! Hope you and your child are feeling a little more settled in now. A good opportunity for you to meet other parents at Bovenschen is to join us at a Parent-to-Parent meeting sometime. It is a group, as the name implies, that brings parents together on a monthly basis. Usually, we meet one night during the second week of the month, either a Tuesday or Thursday. We are attempting to schedule as many of these meetings in advance as possible, which include **Thursday, October 16th, Tuesday, November 11th, and Thursday, December 11th**. Donna Bletch and Daniele Wludyka will continue to be our parent co-facilitators. We try to make it as easy as possible for parents to come by offering sitters to Bovenschen families, free of charge, thanks to our PTO.

Topics that come up include getting available services, working with insurance companies, getting your in-laws to understand your child's needs, dealing with your non-handicapped children, trying to get a diagnosis for your child, the stress on a marriage, the behavioral challenges, and just in general, some of the stresses when faced with a child with special needs. Come join us sometime!

PHONE NUMBERS.It is imperative that every student at Bovenschen have a current emergency card, as well as a current phone number that is in operation. We will track you down!

PTO.Take a look at the PTO page designed by one of our parents, Kelly Thibodeau. We're always open to new ideas, as well holding onto some of the long standing Bovenschen traditions. We have a new and improved committee made up of Bovenschen staff who are motivated to want to get involved in this year's PTO. Wait till you hear some of their ideas !?!

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MY CHILD TURNS 18?.....By now every parent whose child is 16 or 17 should have received an invitation to attend a special meeting on **Wednesday, November 5th at 7:00 PM.** This meeting is designed to help educate parents about what needs to happen when your child turns 18 and to hopefully make it easier as well. Try to make it a priority to attend.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH OUR STUDENTS AFTER THEY TURN 26?.....

Most of our students have been placed in work activity centers, also known as workshops. There is currently significant concern about Medicaid budget cuts, which will seriously eliminate or reduce these programs. It is absolutely necessary that as many people as possible write letters to their state senators and state representatives asking them to re-examine Medicaid Rehabilitation services, as they impact people with developmental disabilities. I do have some "sample" letters that I can forward to you via e-mail or send home with your son or daughter. To find your representative, go to <https://forms.house.gov/wyr/welcome.shtml>. Carl Levin's web form is: levin.senate.gov/contact/index.cfm.

Debbie Stabenow's web form is stabenow.senate.gov/email.cfm.



As always, feel free to stop by or call. Keep us posted on ideas, activities, programs- whatever that you might want to pass on to other Bovenschen parents.

Quad Report...

Hello from Room #1!

We have many things to be excited about this school year. We have 4 students who are new to our classroom Jonathon, Vanessa, Bush and Dominique. We have been very busy working on fall activities and have already begun working on crafts to sell at the Christmas Craft Show and Dinner.

Jenny, Jan and Danielle

Room #2 would like to welcome Devanshi, Chase and Isaac to our classroom. Fall is in full swing here. We have started our Fall themes and stations which include making pumpkins, leaves and apples. We are a busy group and love to have visitors. We welcome all to the new school year!

Jule, Gloria, Joni, Sean, Sharon, and class.

Room #3 is excited to start a new school year. Stop in and welcome our new students Jordan and Nawras. Our classroom will be busy working on 4-H projects throughout the year to enter in the Armada fair. We will also be developing or perfecting our gross and fine motor skills. Of course there's to be continued work on our communication and social skills. Heres to a fun year for all!

Sherry, Jean, Jan, Lena, Pat, Grandma Theresa, Kyle, Unique, Cameron J., Jordan, Nawras, Vena-Marie, Gabe, Mahadi and Cameron W.

Room #4 has a lot of new faces in the room this school year! Welcome Evan, Mikey, Waleed, and Luiza! We are glad to be getting into the fall season this new school year and are getting ready to decorate some pumpkins from the pumpkin patch. We have been working hard on our IEP goals and are getting ready for the great activities coming up this year!

Kat, Elise, Betsy, and Nancy

Room #5 is welcoming our new friends to the classroom! We are learning to share and how to play safely. This month we are learning about apples and buses. We made apple sauce with our speech therapist, Karen. It was yummy! We also are going to visit a fire station, so that we can see a real fire truck and hear the loud sirens. When we get back to our classroom we are going to make a fire truck out of a big box and pretend to be firefighters!

Rebecca and Donna

Hello from room #6 and welcome back to a new school year. We are all getting back into the swing of things and the students seem eager to learn. We are working on an Apple theme this first month and will go to Westview Orchards on Oct.14 to top it off. Our ancillary people are all scheduled in and we are assessing and getting ready for Oct. I.E.P.'s. It is going to be a great year.

Barb, Kathy, Ruth and the Gang: Farhan, Faith, Louis, Angus, Lavon, Brandon, David, Nick and Willie.

