



# Smoke Signals

FROM THE  
WARRIOR CAMP

GRASS LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
899 SOUTH UNION STREET  
GRASS LAKE, MI 49240

DECEMBER 14, 2012

## From the Superintendent's Desk: Brad Hamilton

Welcome to the Holiday Season! The Grass Lake Community Schools Board of Education, Administration, Teachers, and Staff are wishing all of you have a wonderful Holiday season.

A couple of weeks ago, many from the school and community were involved in the Strategic Planning Process. We thank Tovah Sheldon from Spring Arbor University for her leadership and facilitation skills. The process generated Six Revised Goals. These goals will drive our time, efforts, and priorities for the next 18 months. Some are very achievable in that time frame, while others are more futuristic. We can only hope we are as successful in accomplishing these goals as we were in achieving the original eight goals set during the first strategic planning process during the fall of 2008.

I would like to congratulate all of our elementary, middle and high school students who have participated or will be participating in the winter band and choir concerts, as well as those who will display their awesome art projects. We certainly have a very talented group of students that we can all be very proud of. Thanks to all their teachers who helped make these programs possible.

As we enter into 2013, we will begin planning for next year. While it is still early to make any predictions as to school funding, new legislation, etc., we will try our best to continue to offer a quality school with quality programs despite the many legislative efforts to take away local control. Have a great holiday season!

## ON THE HORIZON!

In 2014 our 18 mills on Non-Homestead Property will expire. The State of Michigan expects school districts to levy 18 mills on all non-homestead land to support local schools. If a taxpayer owns only homestead property, it will cost them nothing. The 18 non-homestead mills generate in excess of one million dollars. In the near future, the Grass Lake Board of Education will determine an election date for this critical renewal.

## EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING

From time to time, school must be delayed or closed due to weather-related or emergency conditions. Every attempt is made to make the decision before 6:30 a.m. Parents should be aware that, due to the county-wide snow plowing schedule, school may be delayed for two hours. The following local stations will be contacted for announcements: WLNS TV 6, WILX TV 10, W4 Country 102.9 FM, WVIC 94.1 and WJXQ Q106. Sometimes it is difficult to get through to the stations because everyone is calling at the same time.

In very rare instances, it may be necessary to dismiss school during the day because of deteriorating weather conditions, power failures, etc. Parents should remain posted to any of the above stations. In addition, parents are asked to not drop students off at school during these times of delay.

Please listen for these announcements from the local media as telephone calls to home and school will tie up lines needed for this communication.

While we attempt to maintain the same bus schedules on "bad weather days," there will be days when buses are running a little late. Please be sure that children have on proper attire in the event that they have to wait longer than normal for the bus.



# SMOKE SIGNALS

## DISTRICT VISION

Individual excellence inspired by tradition and innovation.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Grass Lake Community Schools is to provide a quality learning environment which will empower all students to meet their individual needs, discover their potential, and gain essential skills that will enable them to become responsible, contributing citizens of our world.

## DISTRICT BELIEF STATEMENT

We, the Grass Lake school community, are committed to and believe:

- In high standards in education, valued and supported by all.
- In providing a safe, secure and positive learning environment.
- In supporting and developing students intellectually, emotionally, socially and physically to meet their individual needs.
- In the students' power to discover and develop their own unique potential as life-long learners.

## DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION

Superintendent	Brad Hamilton	522-5540
Director of Curriculum	Andi Overmyer	522-5565
High School Principal	Brian Thompson	522-5570
Asst. HS Principal and Athletic Director	Eric McCalla	522-5585
Middle School Principal	Jeanene Satterthwaite	522-5550
Elementary Principal	Michelle Clark	522-5590
Asst. Elementary Principal	Alaina Ellison	
Preschool Director	Christie Orban	522-5650
Director of Transportation & Community Services	Doug Moeckel	522-5544
Food Service Director	Carlene Pindzia	522-5597

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Seven elected community members serve on the Grass Lake Board of Education. Meetings are held twice a month to enable the board to take official action and study issues relating to the school. All meetings are open to the public. In an effort to meet the needs of the community, the Board of Education has established policies to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Equal Opportunity concerns.

- Tim Waskiewicz President
- Florine Herendeen Vice President
- Mark Burnett Secretary
- David Wright Treasurer
- Darrell Hart Trustee
- John Paterra Trustee
- Kimberly Seaburg Trustee

## BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

2012-2013

7:00 p.m., George Long Elementary Library

- | REGULAR MEETINGS    | WORK SESSIONS     |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| • January 14, 2013  | January 28, 2013  |
| • February 11, 2013 | February 25, 2013 |
| • March 11, 2013    | March 25, 2013    |
| • April 8, 2013     | April 22, 2013    |
| • May 13, 2013      |                   |
| • June 19, 2013     | June 24, 2013     |

We would like to introduce our newest School Board Member, Kristi Shoemaker, who will be joining us in January. Welcome Kristi!

We are also saying goodbye to Florine Herendeen. We thank you for your service to our District!



# Grass Lake Community Schools STRATEGIC CHARGE and GOALS

(Re-created November, 2012)

Grass Lake Community Schools' Strategic Planning Key school, community and business personnel recently participated in a strategic planning workshop. The workshop was facilitated by Tovah Sheldon, Assistant Professor, School of Education, Spring Arbor University on October 23rd, November 15th and December 5th, 2012. The focus of the workshop was to create and set forth a plan to meet future needs for the students of Grass Lake Community Schools. Please read the following charge and list of goals.

### *Strategic Charge :*

*To establish Grass Lake Community Schools as a premier school district in all areas including, but not limited to, student achievement, athletics, fine arts, facilities, leadership, use of technology and community service.*

**Goal # 1:** To develop and implement quality, researched instructional programs that will improve student learning.

**Goal # 2:** To create a K-12 campus which emphasizes alternative and non-traditional learning opportunities where students can achieve their full potential.

**Goal #3:** To move towards technology immersion that will enhance learning, instruction and communication.

**Goal #4:** To provide opportunities for students to become leaders in regards to educational, emotional and social experiences.

**Goal #5:** To increase the number of students participating in co-curricular and extra-curricular activity options through cooperation with school staff, the community and businesses.

**Goal #6:** To provide new, renovated and well maintained facilities that will enable Grass Lake Community Schools to remain a premier school district.

# SMOKE SIGNALS

A special 'thank you' to the following participants that dedicated time, energy, wisdom and resources to this valuable project. Grass Lake Community Schools would not be premier without these incredible, dedicated individuals.

Katelyn Beurer, Courtney Byers, Andrea Clark, Michelle Clark, Alaina Ellison, Bradley Hamilton, Aaron Lewis, Matt Maynard, Heidi McKenzie, Kathy Mietelka, Angela Mitchell, Doug Moeckel, Natalia Morris, Tom Nolte, Andi Overmyer, Sara Pennewill, Nate Pittenger, Jeanene Satterthwaite, Tovah Sheldon, Janelle Sherwood, Jim Stormont, Jennifer Sullivan, Brian Thompson, Susan Townsend, Marianne Walter, Tim Waskiewicz, Sydney Witter and David Wright.



# SMOKE SIGNALS

## George Long Elementary Warrior Pride

**Michelle Clark, Principal**  
**Alaina Ellison, Assistant Principal**

*"Treat others the Way you Want to Be Treated"*

It has been a wonderful start to the school year and it is hard to believe that the holidays are almost here. Students and staff at George Long are continuing to develop good character traits.

As we all know sometimes children can be mean to each other, say things that are hurtful, leave others out and make bad choices. No one should have to accept this unkindness. Instead, we are trying to help students think through their actions and treat others the way they want to be treated. We are doing this through our Warrior Pride program. This program focuses on students' successes, relationships with peers, academic success, fairness and caring. We are learning what it feels like to do something positive for others, make good choices and celebrate the power to make a difference. As the year goes on we will be talking about trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. Throughout the week students can earn Warrior Pride tickets for displaying good character and academic success. The tickets are put in a drawing and weekly students' names are announced over the morning announcements. Students are very excited when they are acknowledged for the positive things they do. Through all this we hope students will see the importance of being a good example to others, showing compassion and understanding to others, accepting people who have differences and understanding the importance of hard work and honesty even when they feel like giving up.

**The students and staff at George Long wish everyone a very happy holiday season!**



## Making Connections Through Skype

**By Mr. Arbuckle**  
**3rd Grade Teacher**

The students in Mr. Arbuckle's class recently took part in a Mystery Skype Project. The kids connected with another classroom from a different part of the country. Through conversation the students asked questions to the other classroom, mostly geographical, to determine which state they were from. First they discovered in which state the other class lived. Then they asked questions to locate what town they were from. Our mystery class was located in Cresco, Iowa. This project was a lot of fun and we hope to continue Skyping with other classrooms throughout the World.



The students have also been connecting on Skype weekly with students from Concord Elementary. The class happens to be taught by Mr. Arbuckle's wife, Amanda. Both classes are working on a "Character Traits Spirit Week" that will teach the kids from both schools different character traits. This is a joint collaboration and made up entirely of the kids' ideas. The following is a breakdown of the daily events for the week of January 14th through 18th:

Monday – Caring Citizens show our support for our country (students wear red, white, and blue, or camouflage)

Tuesday – Trustworthiness – you have to trust the members on your team (wear your favorite teams jersey or your jersey)

Wednesday – Responsible Rock Stars (wear glitter, sunglasses, bandanas, anything else to look like a rock star)

Thursday – Hats off to Respect (Students may wear hats, but learn respect by taking them off during the pledge, national anthem, and at lunch)

Friday – Fairness (Wear your School Pride apparel, i.e. Warrior Wear)

## COLLABORATIVE GINGER BREAD HOUSES

By Mrs. Taylor  
Kindergarten Teacher

Throughout the first two weeks of December, we read many versions of the classic Gingerbread Man story, compared and contrasted the endings, experimented with what might have happened had the gingerbread man decided to swim across that fabled river himself, and were ready for something more. We wanted to build real gingerbread houses. In order to do this with 22 kindergartners, we needed help! We enlisted the 8th grade art students in Mrs. Crandell's class. They were given the task of building the cardboard structure with the dimensions of a graham cracker in mind. They arrived, houses in hand, ready to cover with all the sweet treats of a real gingerbread house. Each 8th grader was paired up with a kindergarten buddy, and over the course of two days, the teams covered their houses with graham crackers and



candies, which were all donated by our generous parents. New friendships were formed, houses were completed and one more gingerbread man unit comes to a sweet end.

*Above: Will and Luke's finished house*

*Below Left: Asjanet helping Cassidy assemble her house*

*Below Right: Hope and Jacob help Maddie add the finishing touches*

# SMOKE SIGNALS

NEWS FROM THE ELEMENTARY HEALTH ROOM

By Mrs. Karle

Our year began with lessons on how to prevent the spread of germs. As we once again find ourselves in close contact with others, the first week of class is spent on the importance of frequent hand washing and how to "cover that cough"!

Our kindergarten and first graders had lessons on bus safety and behavior. They always enjoy their visit to the bus with Mr. Moeckel.

The month of October brought our yearly visit from the fire department for kindergarten through 2nd graders. Each year Rich Dase, from the Grass Lake fire department, generously spends a week educating our students on fire safety. The highlight of each lesson is our visit to the fire truck. Each year, Fire Fighter Rich gives a smoke detector to the second grade students who draw the best E.D.I.T.H. (Exit Drill in the Home).



Third grade students are beginning their study of the body systems. As students understand the workings of their bodies, hopefully they will appreciate and take care of this marvelous machine!

The circulatory system lesson included creating a model of a blood in a jar. We used paper, water and food coloring to make red and white blood cells, plasma and platelets.

Fourth and fifth graders have spent the past weeks learning how to protect themselves and others from bullying. They know what to put in a Bullying Toolkit and a Bullying Backpack. The two most important items being kindness and courage.

*Pictured: Fire fighter Rich Dase awarding a smoke detector and a fire helmet to 3rd grader Zeke Dubiel*

# SMOKE SIGNALS

## Online Safety Awareness

By Michelle Clark

As our children become more and more immersed in technology it is very important that you and your child are aware of safety. Students from the 4th and 5th grade were involved in an assembly that talked about how to be safe on-line. This assembly was put on by the Michigan Cyber Safety Initiative. Please take a few minutes to review the safety procedures with your children. If you want to find more information on the subject you can go to [www.michigan.gov/csi](http://www.michigan.gov/csi).

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**Do not** give out personal information without a trusted adult's permission. This includes your name, phone number, and picture. Always be safe when using email, internet, chat rooms, websites or anything that promises free stuff or prizes.

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**Do not** use your real name. Always use a pretend name or nickname that doesn't reveal whether you are a boy or girl or your age.

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**Do not** respond to any message or open anything that you feel is not right. If you don't know where it came from or who sent it, ignore it.

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**Do not** ever tell someone that you would like to meet them in person.

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**Do not** send rude inappropriate messages

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**Do not** ever post your picture for others to see.

*We hope this information is helpful to you and your family*

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FROM THE DESK OF:  
ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL  
SOCIAL WORKER  
SARAH PENNEWILL

Hello to students, families, and community members. My name is Sarah Pennewill. I am the Kindergarten-8th grade general education social worker/school counselor. I was at the middle school part time for the second part of last year. This year, I was lucky enough to be brought on full time as the counselor for the elementary and middle school level. I grew up in the Jackson area and after spending four years in Kalamazoo to earn my Bachelor's degree and a year earning my Master's degree at the University of Michigan, I am happy to be back living in the area.

My role at the elementary and middle school is varied. I am in place as a support for students, families, and staff. I often work with kids individually to help with a problem or issue that they are faced with. I also work with some students in the group setting to help develop traits such as self-esteem, social skills, anger management, adjustment, and other topics as needed. I also serve as a connection between students/families and community resources. If your family is faced with a difficulty and would like help in finding a support, I can often be of assistance in making that connection.

In my short time working for Grass Lake Community Schools I have already grown to love the tight-knit feeling of the community. I look forward to my continued work with Grass Lake Community Schools; along with the work I may do with the staff, students, families, and community members. I can be contacted via email: [sarah.pennewill@grasslakeschools.com](mailto:sarah.pennewill@grasslakeschools.com) or by phone (517)522-5552.

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## Grass Lake Middle School

*Individual excellence inspired by tradition and innovation*

*Jeanene Satterthwaite, Principal*

Grass Lake Middle School has had a successful beginning of the 2012-2013 school year! Students have done a wonderful job of getting into the learning mode and becoming respectful and responsible citizens. Staff has also done an excellent job of providing educational opportunities that focuses on increasing student achievement through increasing students' critical thinking and problem solving skills.

One of our main focuses at the middle school this year is to create positive work ethics and responsibility. Starting second marking period, a new policy has been set to help students create good work ethics and take responsibility and pride in their work. This policy states that any student who has three or more missing assignments will be assigned a morning detention to work on these assignments. Also, any student who is failing one or more core classes will be unable to attend certain in-school assemblies and after school activity nights. We are hoping this helps to motivate students to work hard as well as provide a reward for students who are conscientious and hard working.

We want to remind our families and students about good study habits and the importance of staying current on their school work. Make sure students have a quiet, distraction free place to do their homework. Encourage them to use their planners daily to write out homework, tests, and other projects that are due. Please check on your child's progress in Power School frequently throughout the marking period. You will also note that there is a Citizenship Grade attached to 7th hour. This grade was given collaboratively by all grade level teachers and depicts your students' behaviors, work ethics, and positive choices throughout the marking period. This past week, all students who received an A in Citizenship earned open gym time. We are very proud of the students who earned this privilege and those that are working hard to earn an A this marking period.

Parent communication is welcomed so please feel free to come in to talk with our staff about any questions or concerns you may have. Our parents are to be commended for being wonderful advocates for their children.

Please remember that our PTO meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 6:00 in the Middle School Office. Please join us!

# SMOKE SIGNALS

## Grass Lake Middle School Art

Jessica Crandell has been working with our 6th-8th graders on innovative art projects that capture the student's creativity. Mrs. Crandell felt that students' art wasn't being appreciated by enough people by only being placed in the display cases at the middle school. Therefore, Mrs. Crandell started researching other ways to showcase the finished artwork for parents, students and others. Mrs. Crandell created a Weebly page which is updated frequently as projects are finished. Check out the site:

<http://crandellsclasscreations.weebly.com>

Keep checking back for updates to see how our students are continually progressing in their art education!



*Keith Haring Graffiti Person*  
by 6th Grader

*Nametangle*  
by 8th Grader

*Collage Masterpiece of Roy Lichtenstein's Mustard on White*  
by 7th Grader

# SMOKE SIGNALS

## GRASS LAKE HIGH SCHOOL

Brian Thompson, Principal

### High School Happenings:

This article will be dedicated to highlighting the happenings at the high school. It has been a wonderful start to the school year and it is hard to believe that we are nearing the half way point of the school year.

- The high school continues to expand its technology capabilities. The high school has a complete WIFI network and we are looking at enlarging its capacity level to allow for more individual electronic usage by our students, staff, and guests. The high school continues to expand its SMART technologies in the classrooms and hopefully every room in the building will have these capabilities in the near future.

- The Grass Lake School Board and Grass Lake Student Council had a spirited meeting at the end of November to discuss important topics related to student achievement. The topics covered were the positive and negatives of social media and how it affects student achievement, teenage alcohol abuse and how we can work together to reduce its negative effect on student achievement, and modifications to the curricular offerings at the high school. Several great ideas came out of the meeting and the school board will review these ideas and find avenues to implement them in the future.

- Grass Lake High School continues its partnership with Jackson Community College. Jackson Community College currently offers multiple evening classes in our facilities and will continue to offer classes next semester. Jackson Community College also offers Calculus I in the mornings at Grass Lake High School to both current high school students and college students. The high school continues to see an increase in the number of students taking advantage of the districts dual enrollment philosophy.

Several of our students take advantage of the opportunity to enroll in class at JCC while still attending Grass Lake High School. This allows those students to gain valuable college credit prior to graduating from high school. Specific information regarding our dual enrollment policy can be found on our website: [www.grasslakeschools.com](http://www.grasslakeschools.com), under the high school handbook.

- Advanced Placement classes continue to grow in popularity at Grass Lake High School. Last year saw the largest enrollment in AP classes in the history of Grass Lake Schools. This year, AP English, AP US History and AP Chemistry are being offered to our student body. Our AP program along with our dual enrollment opportunities provide our students with a large range of options to obtain college credit while attending high school.

- This fall was another tremendous season for the Warrior football team. They again brought home a Cascades Conference Championship. The varsity football team won another district title this season. This is their sixth district title in the last seven seasons. The future is bright for Grass Lake football and its continued success brings pride to the community and school.

- The Grass Lake Varsity Volleyball team won its first district title this past fall. Their hard work and dedication has provided a revival in our volleyball program. The entire community is looking forward to the success of this program in future seasons.

A few upcoming dates:

- End of first semester      January 25
- Winterfest                      February 1
- Michigan Merit Exam      March 5 - 7





*Curriculum, Instruction  
and Assessment News*  
**By Andi Overmyer, Director**

# SMOKE SIGNALS

Teachers Attend Technology SLAM!:

On Friday, November 2nd, 2012 all Grass Lake Community Schools teachers attended a full day "technology workshop" held at Grass Lake High School. The tech presenters were educational technology consultants representing Jackson County Intermediate School District: Dan Spencer, Brad Wilson and Kim Powell. A few teachers also presented to their colleagues. They were Sarah Sherwood, Brad Coffey, Paul Dornfeld, Katelyn Beurer and Mike Arbuckle. Each teacher attended four different tech topics. The topics were:

- Multimedia & the Common Core (6-12)
- Padding with a Purpose Strategies for iPads (K-5)
- Flipping the Classroom (K-12)
- Teaching & Learning Strategies with iPads (6-12)
- Integrating Technology into the Daily 5 Routine (K-5)
- Classroom Engagement (K-12)
- Teacher/Student Web Spaces (K-12)
- Smartboard Roundtable (K-12)
- Multimedia & the Common Core (K-5)
- Stare & Share! iPads & Apps (K-5)
- Collaborative Projects & Social Learning Tools (K-12)

The outcomes from this day will be evident as teachers use the technology in their classrooms to improve student learning.



*Mrs. Wrozek and Mrs. Stevens learning about Math Doodles*



*Above: Teachers attending Tech Slam*

*Right: Mrs. Lenkowski & Mrs. Beurer so happy to be learning new Technology!!*



## **National K-12 Common Core State Standards Initiative**

Please check out these sites for the most current information regarding the CCSS initiative for English Language Arts and Mathematics. Teachers are already teaching these grade level standards set for full implementation next year. (They replace the Michigan Department of Education's K-8 GLCEs and 9-12 HSCEs.) A NEWLY aligned assessment will be in place during the school year 2014-2015. It will replace the MEAP and MME. Stay tuned for details.

<http://www.corestandards.org/>

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/>

# SMOKE SIGNALS

Transportation, Community  
and Cooperative Services  
Doug Moeckel, Director

## Transportation

Safety for our students while they are on or around our school buses is the top priority that is stressed every day. This is a team effort that involves students, bus drivers, parents, and the many drivers who share the road with our buses. Close integration of individual responsibilities is essential to ensure that our safety record continues to be an excellent one.

**Bus drivers:** The responsibilities of the driver are tremendous. Not only are they responsible for the safe operation of the bus, but they are also responsible for the maintenance of a positive, safe atmosphere on the bus, in addition to monitoring the activities of all vehicles around them, regardless of the weather conditions they encounter.

**Students:** We ask that they understand the danger zones around the bus, that they stay seated on the bus and talk quietly with their neighbors, that they are outside standing at their bus stop prior to the bus arriving in the morning, and in instances where crossing the road is necessary, that they always wait for the direction of the bus driver before proceeding.

**Parents:** We ask that they always have their children at the stop prior to the bus arriving in the morning and that their children are outside and prepared to board when the bus stops. If the children miss the bus it is never appropriate to follow the bus and attempt to have the students run to the bus from the rear at the next stop. Any changes in drop-off or pick-up locations must be cleared through the Transportation office.



**Other drivers:** With technology available in our busy lives, distracted driving has become a safety issue for our students and school buses. Always heighten your attention level when a bus is in sight on the road. All Grass Lake buses have an "8-light" stop light arrangement, and the operation of this arrangement can be likened to a stop light. At 200 feet before a bus stop the overhead amber lights are activated, warning drivers that the bus is preparing to stop. If car drivers are able to come to a safe stop prior to meeting the bus, please do so. When the bus has made a full stop for a student pick-up or drop-off the overhead red lights are activated. At this time there should be no passing of the bus. Only by working together can we ensure continued success with the safe operation of our buses. If you have any questions, please contact our Transportation office at 517.522.5544 or at

[doug.moeckel@grasslakeschools.com](mailto:doug.moeckel@grasslakeschools.com).

## Community Education

The Grass Lake Community Schools Community Education Department continues to provide an assortment of enrichment opportunities for all ages of community members. We publish brochures with our offerings quarterly. We invite participation of community members toward offering courses allowing for the sharing of skills with others. Courses for which we are looking for instructors include camera use, Photoshop use, and the use of Microsoft Office and E-Mail. If you are interested in sharing your skills, please contact the Community Education office at 517.522.5544 or at [doug.moeckel@grasslakeschools.com](mailto:doug.moeckel@grasslakeschools.com).

## Community Services

Grass Lake Community Schools continues to provide the use of our facilities for many different activities for our community, and also for organizations outside of our community. We have an assortment of rentable spaces that can accommodate most needs, including parties, conferences, meetings, etc. With the technology available in our building we can accommodate most common types of electronic presentation software. If you are interested in pursuing the possibilities, please contact the Community Service office at 517.522.5544 or at

[doug.moeckel@grasslakeschools.com](mailto:doug.moeckel@grasslakeschools.com).

## Grass Lake Community Wellness Initiative

Grass Lake Community Schools is proud to join other community members, municipalities and organizations who are involved with the 5 Healthy Towns Project being directed by the Chelsea-Area Wellness Initiative. We have joined coalitions in Stockbridge, Manchester, Dexter, and Chelsea in this effort toward improving the wellness levels of our five towns. Grass Lake's coalition is called the Grass Lake Community Wellness Initiative and we have recently been awarded over \$85,000 toward grant requests that involve all age levels in our community as we work to eat better, move more, avoid unhealthy substances, and connecting with others. Our Initiative meets on the third Monday of every month at 6:30 PM in the Grass Lake Township Hall, with the meetings being open to all interested parties. While there will not be a meeting in December, planning for the 2013-2014 funding cycle will begin in earnest at our January 21, 2013 meeting. We invite all interested parties to join us. For more information go to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Grass-Lake-Community-Wellness-Initiative/244954665577398>, or to be added to our contact list, contact us at 517.522.5544 or at

[doug.moeckel@grasslakeschools.com](mailto:doug.moeckel@grasslakeschools.com).



# SMOKE SIGNALS



## MARCHING BAND COMPLETES SUCCESSFUL SEASON

Submitted by  
Rachel Wilson

**C**ongratulations to the Warrior Marching Band on an excellent season! The marching band is made up of hard-working students in 9th through 12th grade. This year, the band performed at all Warrior home games, the homecoming parade, the Chelsea Marching Band Exhibition, and the Vandercook Lake Marching Invitational.



# SMOKE SIGNALS



The Grass Lake Educational Foundation would like to thank all of those who participated in the 2012 Festival of Tables event held Saturday October 6th. The foundation board of trustees, volunteer committee, and the students of Grass Lake who will benefit from this event truly appreciate the commitment of so many who participated through sponsorship, table purchases and auction item donations.

Over \$27,000 was raised at this year's event for the benefit of the students of Grass Lake. The foundation provides teacher mini-grants, capital for classroom technology, scholarships for graduating seniors, and has moved closer to providing capital for physical improvements to enhance the educational environment for Grass Lake students.

In the month of December the board of trustees will begin our annual approval of teacher mini-grants. Teacher mini-grants assist the individual teacher in providing materials and activities to students to extend their educational opportunity beyond standard curricula. The board will set aside scholarship funds to benefit select 2013 graduating seniors that will reward not only academic success, but a well-rounded student who has excelled in and out of the classroom. Finally, the board will evaluate a technology need within the school and will set aside funds to support the technological advancement of students within the goals set forth by the school board and administration.

The foundation has partnered with the Copper Nail Community Resale Shop in order to provide expanded grants to extracurricular activities for the students of Grass Lake. This partnership could provide up to \$8,000 per year in additional funding to after school activities as well as expanded classroom curricula.

The Educational Foundation was started in 1985 and has grown through community participation, including private citizens of Grass Lake, members of the local business community, and educators. The foundation will continue to grow through events such as the Festival of Tables and the annual Scrapbooking event held at the high school. These events provide a significant funding source for the foundation and will help the foundation meet its goal of supporting the Grass Lake Community Schools in becoming a premier school district. We still have many objectives to meet and welcome your support. If you are interested in helping support the foundation through private donation, volunteer work, or as trustee on our board please contact Brad Hamilton, foundation Executive Director at [Brad.Hamilton@grasslakeschools.com](mailto:Brad.Hamilton@grasslakeschools.com) or Aaron Lewis, foundation President at [alewis@farmerstatebank.com](mailto:alewis@farmerstatebank.com).

## National Honor Society Students Host Blood Drive

By Bonnie Long

With the help of students, faculty, and community members, the Grass Lake High School National Honor Society collected 63 units of blood during its Fall Semester Blood Drive, held on Friday, November 30, in the multipurpose room of the high school.

"Each year we try to encourage more students to donate," says Sidney Witter, one of many NHS students who helped out at this year's drive. "Not many people know this, but with each pint of blood that is donated, three lives are saved."

"Blood drives at the high school level are definitely a good idea," commented Paul Rankin, a high school senior. "Donating blood builds a foundation of giving to others who are in need."

In return for their coordination efforts, two NHS students, one each semester, are eligible for a scholarship from the Red Cross. In order to receive a scholarship, the NHS must meet the Red Cross's goal of a specific number of pints donated. Their goal was 52 pints this fall, and in the spring, the goal will be increased to 54.

The second blood drive of the school year is scheduled for Monday, March 25, 2013. NHS members look forward to seeing you there!



# SMOKE SIGNALS

## Communications

Grass Lake Community Schools offers a variety of means by which we are able to disseminate information to the community. Our District website is [www.grasslakeschools.com](http://www.grasslakeschools.com) where you can find school buildings, activities, departments, calendars and an assortment of other relevant information. By "liking" us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Grass-Lake-Community-Schools/102610886441620> you will receive up-to-date announcements automatically. Each of the school buildings send announcements to their school families via e-mail. If you are interested in receiving these announcements, please contact your individual school building office and request to be added to their e-mail list. For Grass Lake Alumni interested in receiving information about our school district and other information about former classmates, including reunion information and obituaries, contact our offices to be added to our e-mail list at 517.522.5544 or at [doug.moeckel@grasslakeschools.com](mailto:doug.moeckel@grasslakeschools.com). For special announcements, including school closures and delays, Grass Lake Community Schools utilizes an automatic calling system that is able to reach all school families in a short amount of time at phone numbers that are most desirable for the families.

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December 2012

## CLASSES EXPLORE WORLD GENOCIDES

Language Arts 12 classes, along with a few other students, will be going to the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills to remember and honor the victims of the Holocaust. Language Arts 12 students are currently working on a world genocide genre study using Elie Wiesel's novel *Night* as their foundation.

While at the museum, students will take a guided tour through the museum and talk with a survivor about their experiences. "I'm looking forward to going because I would like to hear their story. Not often do you get the chance to talk to someone who's experienced it first hand," says one student in Mrs. Byers LA 12 class.

Along with studying the Holocaust, students will be reading literature dealing with other world genocides. "Students are always shocked when they realize that genocides, like the Holocaust, are still happening throughout the world. My goal with this unit is to broaden their world view and to get them thinking about their responsibility to the world. I want them to realize the power in their own voices," says teacher Courtney Byers.

Students in all classes are looking forward to learning more about the struggle of the Jewish people and the effect the Holocaust has on the world. Susan Doub, a student in Mrs. Byers' LA 12 class says, "By studying the Holocaust and other world genocides, we can use what we have learned to prevent anything like this from happening again."

**The Staff of  
Grass Lake Community Schools  
Wishes you  
a safe and  
Enjoyable Holiday Season!**

# SMOKE SIGNALS

# GO WARRIORS!

## Middle School Winter Sports Schedule 2012-2013

### MS Boys Basketball

Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time
11/6	T	Addison	H	4:30
11/8	Th	Michigan Center	A	4:30
11/13	T	Napoleon	A	4:30
11/15	Th	East Jackson	H	4:30
11/19	M	Manchester	H	4:30
11/20	T	Vandercook Lake	A	4:30
11/27	T	Hanover Horton	A	4:30
11/28	W	Addison	A	4:30
12/3	M	Michigan Center	H	4:30
12/5	W	Napoleon	H	4:30
12/10	M	East Jackson	A	4:30
12/12	W	Hanover Horton	H	4:30

### MS Girls Basketball

Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time
1/23	W	Addison	A	4:30
1/24	Th	Michigan Center	A	4:30
1/28	M	Napoleon	A	4:30
1/30	W	East Jackson	H	4:30
2/4	M	Manchester	H	4:30
2/6	W	Vandercook Lake	A	4:30
2/11	M	Hanover Horton	A	4:30
2/13	W	Addison	H	4:30
2/20	W	Michigan Center	H	4:30
2/21	Th	Napoleon	H	4:30
2/25	M	East Jackson	A	4:30
2/27	W	Hanover Horton	H	4:30

### MS

#### Wrestling

Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time
		Michigan Center		
1/18	F	Invite	A	4:00
1/30	W	Addison	A	4:30
2/2	S	Manchester Invite	A	9:00
2/6	W	East Jackson	A	4:30
2/12	T	Addison	A	4:30
2/20	W	Manchester	A	4:30

#### MS Cheer

Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time
		Conference Jamboree		
11/29	Th	@ E.J.	A	4:30
12/1	S	Michigan Center	A	10:00
12/6	Th	Conf Jamboree	H	4:30
12/8	S	Hanover Horton Conf Jamboree @	A	1:00
12/13	Th	Vandercook Conf Jamboree @	A	4:30
12/20	Th	Addison	A	4:30
1/9	W	Adrian Madison Invite	A	1:40

# SMOKE SIGNALS



## High School Winter Sports Schedule 2012-2013

### JV/Varsity Boys Basketball

Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time
12/4	T	Whitmore Lake	H	5:30/7:00
12/7	F	Leslie	A	5:30/7:00
12/10	M	Springport	A	5:30/7:00
12/13	Th	Hanover Horton	A	5:30/7:00
12/20	Th	Vandercook Lake	H	5:30/7:00
1/10	Th	East Jackson	H	5:30/7:00
1/14	M	Plymouth Christian Aca.	H	5:30/7:00
1/18	F	Addison	A	5:30/7:00
1/22	T	Michigan Center	A	5:30/7:00
1/25	F	Napoleon	H	5:30/7:00
1/29	T	Manchester	A	5:30/7:00
2/1	F	Hanover Horton	H	5:30/7:00
2/5	T	Rudolph Steiner	H	5:30/7:00
2/8	F	East Jackson	A	5:30/7:00
2/12	T	Addison	H	5:30/7:00
2/14	Th	Michigan Center	H	5:30/7:00
2/19	T	Vandercook Lake	A	4:30/7:30
2/22	F	Napoleon	A	5:30/7:00
2/26	T	Britton Deerfield	A	5:30/7:00
2/28	Th	Manchester	H	5:30/7:00

### JV/Varsity Girls Basketball

Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time
11/27	T	Chelsea	A	5:30/7:00
11/30	F	Hanover Horton	A	5:30/7:00
12/7	F	East Jackson	H	5:30/7:00
12/11	T	Addison	A	5:30/7:00
12/14	F	Napoleon	H	5:30/7:00
12/18	T	Michigan Center	H	5:30/7:00
12/21	F	Vandercook Lake	H	5:30/7:00
1/8	T	Manchester	A	5:30/7:00
1/11	F	Hanover Horton	H	5:30/7:00
1/15	T	Whitmore Lake	H	5:30/7:00
1/17	Th	East Jackson	A	5:30/7:00
1/22	T	Onsted	A	5:30/7:00
1/24	Th	Addison	H	5:30/7:00
1/28	M	Reading	H	5:30/7:00
1/31	Th	Napoleon	A	5:30/7:00
2/4	M	Leslie	A	5:30/7:00
2/7	Th	Michigan Center	A	5:30/7:00
2/11	M	Springport	H	5:30/7:00
2/19	T	Vandercook Lake	A	4:30/6:00
2/21	Th	Manchester	H	5:30/7:00

### Varsity Cheerleading

Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time
12/5	W	Conf Jamboree @ Mich. Ctr.	A	6:00
12/8	S	Warrior Invite	H	10:00
12/12	W	Leslie	A	6:00
1/9	W	Conf Jamboree @Vandercook	A	6:00
1/16	W	Winter Warmth Invite	H	6:00
1/19	S	Manchester	A	10:00
1/23	W	Conf Jamboree @Manchester	A	6:00
1/26	S	Michigan Center	A	1:00
2/2	S	Western High - Parma	A	9:30
2/6	W	Conf Jamboree @ Addison	A	6:00
2/13	W	Conf Meet @ Vandercook	A	TBA

### Varsity Wrestling

Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time
12/5	W	Grass Lake Quad	H	6:00
12/8	S	JAWS @ Jackson High	A	TBA
12/12	W	Cascade Quad	H	6:00
12/15	S	Michigan Center	A	8:30
12/19	W	Casc. Quad @ Manch.	A	6:00
12/28	F	Warrior Invite	H	9:00
1/5	S	Clinton	A	9:00
1/9	W	Casc. Quad @ E. Jackson	A	6:00
1/12	S	Stockbridge	A	TBA
1/19	S	Hudson	A	9:00
1/23	W	Casc. Quad @Addison	A	6:00
1/26	S	Columbia Central	A	9:00
2/1	F	Manchester	A	4:00