



SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS

# BELL RINGER

Home of the Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School

[www.spartaschools.org](http://www.spartaschools.org)

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## Kids Food Basket: Feeding Kids in West Michigan

By Elice Davey

This November, Sparta Area Schools was involved in a food drive for North Kent and Kids Food Basket. Kids Food Basket is an organization established in 2001 focusing on childhood hunger in Kent County. The organization provides sack dinners which include 1000 calories from the five food groups that are essential for the development of kids' brains and bodies. Studies show kids learn better if they are well fed. Dinners are distributed directly to students in the classroom, that way they get to children easily and safely. The program serves over 3,100 kids each day, even making sure to provide dinners over the holiday breaks or when school is not in session. Kids Food Basket serves schools that have a student population in which 80% of the student body is at or below the poverty line.

Kids Food Basket is driven by the support of the community and volunteers. Over 100 volunteers help pack sack dinners every day. Over a quarter of the volunteers are kids under the age of 18. This year, the food drive was led by Sparta senior, Alex Clay. Ridgeview students and staff helped Alex by collecting items such as; juice boxes, granola bars, and fruit cups. During November, they collected ninety-nine pounds of food. Students also worked hard decorating the brown paper bags for the sack dinners. Alex also spent time with a first grade classroom counting the food items, teaching lessons on hunger, homelessness, and philanthropy.

When asked what the most valuable thing she learned since joining this initiative, Alex replied, "I am more compassionate and aware of problems in the community." Alex plans to continue to aid in giving back to the community during our book drive and Empty Bowls dinner, both taking place in March.

For more information about Kids Food Basket, or how you can get involved, please visit [kidsfoodbasket.org](http://kidsfoodbasket.org).



Pictured are Alex Suli and Sarah Studt

## Peter Pan, In Review

By Lauren Shirey

Peter Pan was a whirlwind of success between the flying, the wonderful cast, and the help that they received. Flying was especially impressive, as well as the singing and choreography of the fighting. Mrs. Marolf and the cast dedicated countless hours to the production. This play posed a unique set of problems: the cast for Peter Pan was smaller than most of the previous plays and also included younger students who were incorporated into the production. Getting familiar with the basics of "show business" was a must for the younger students. "Sometimes I felt like their mother, but it turned out great," Mrs. Marolf said. And all of the hard work paid off. Mrs. Marolf wanted to bring the Peter Pan legend to SHS because it is an endearing and well-known story. We all have that small wish not to grow up- to stay light hearted and just have fun. The play allowed us to get lost in the world of Neverland. Overall, Mrs. Marolf is so impressed with the kids and can't wait to get started on her next production. However, help is always needed. So if you have any interest in helping with future productions, talk to Mrs. Marolf to see how you can help make the next play as big of a success as Peter Pan!

### Peter Pan: The Secret behind the Flying

By Taylor Ostman

"How are they flying?" That was the question heard throughout the auditorium during the five production days of Peter Pan. Well, the truth is they were not flying by fairy dust; they were "Flying by Foy." The flying company has been in existence since the 1950's. Foy started when members of the original company went to a Peter Pan production and had the idea to make actors fly. Foy has done some major productions since then including; *Cirque Du Soleil* and *Spiderman* on Broadway. The cast of Peter Pan spent three, six- hour days learning the tricks of flying. It can be very dangerous so every flyer had someone they could trust to help them. The cast also had to pay attention to the equipment and have respect for their flying trainer. There was no independence in this process everyone had to work as a team to be safe. The harnesses were specifically made for the flying students and were hidden underneath the costumes. The play featured a combat trainer who choreographed the fight scenes who also worked with the production of the movie, *Braveheart*. There was much help and time put into this production to make it a success. Mrs. Marolf and her team definitely gave the audience a ponderous question to answer. And now you know!



Mrs. Geers' and Mrs. McKellar's classes visit Church's Christmas Tree Farm.

## Love, Faith and Hope...

These are the greatest feelings to have during this time of year. The students from Mrs. Geers' and Mrs. McKellar's classes traveled up to Grant and visited Bob Van Buskirk at Church's Christmas Tree Farm. Each year the family at Church's, opens their arms with love to our classes and takes us out for a Christmas hay ride. We bundle up and sing Christmas carols while riding. We also go on an adventure, hoping to find the perfect Christmas tree. Once we find the tree, we sing "Oh Christmas Tree" as Bob cuts it down. Next, we load back on the hay-filled trailer and ride back to the lodge. Bob then shakes, wraps and bundles the tree to load onto the bus. We then go into the lodge for more caroling and some very delicious hot chocolate. The Van Buskirk family has always been so caring and loving to our students and Bob always donates this special tree, that we picked out, to a family in need right here in Sparta. Please remember that there are always good, kind people like the Van Buskirks that are always showing their love, faith, and hope during this holiday season!

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Sparta Areas Schools Board of Education members are Nick Lewis, trustee, Tom DuPont, trustee, Warren Hill, president, James Kerby, trustee, Carol Shirey, vice president, Julie McCallum, secretary and Clay Brown, treasurer.

## School Board Recognition

January is designated as National School Board Recognition Month providing an opportunity to recognize the service of our elected school trustees. School Board members are committed to public education whose leadership guides the future of the Sparta Area Schools. This month we want to acknowledge the dedication of our School Board Members, and their contributions in providing a quality education to the students of Sparta.

We are very fortunate to have caring individuals that place the interest of children first. These officials serve the community in the difficult and often times thankless role of leading the district toward a common goal of helping all students achieve their potential. Members come from many different backgrounds, however they cooperatively unite in an effort to meet the needs of our students. In a time of complex change requiring difficult decisions our Board has time and time again demonstrated a long history of collaboration, sense of community, and unity.

Strong leadership is critical as public education struggles to adapt to an ever changing world. Board members have not only helped establish a "Sparta" culture based on values, but they live them in governing our district. Please make a special effort to let our Board members know they are truly appreciated.

## Special Education Information for Parents

Parent Advisors for Special Education (PASE) is a group offered through Kent Intermediate School District (KISD). Meetings are held throughout the year to gather parent input and introduce and discuss various topics relevant to the education of children with special needs. Along with the topics below are legislative, policy and KISD information updates. Sparta has 3 representatives, but any parent of a student who receives special education programs or services are welcomed and encouraged to attend. This year's remaining meetings are held on Monday evenings at 7:00 at the Kent Intermediate School District (near Knapp and East Beltline) on the following dates.

January 24, 2011	Post-secondary Transition
March 14, 2011	Summer Camps
May 11, 2011	Organizational/ wrap-up meeting

You can also view more information about PASE and other special education topics at [www.kentisd.org](http://www.kentisd.org). Click on Special Education and then click on PASE.

## Bell Ringer Due Dates

The *Bell Ringer* communicates with the residents of the school district five times per year. If you wish to have an article or "Community Corner" notice considered for publication, please email it to [amie.bitely@staff.spartaschools.org](mailto:amie.bitely@staff.spartaschools.org). Please use only MS Word or Corel WordPerfect for your format.

The *Bell Ringer* is distributed in the first issue of the *Advance Newspaper* in November, January, March, June and August. If you are not receiving the *Bell Ringer*, please contact the Advance at (1-800-439-0960). Issues of the *Bell Ringer* are also available for download at [www.spartaschools.org](http://www.spartaschools.org).

Deadlines to submit information:

March 1, 2011 issue .....	due February 2
June 7, 2011 issue .....	due May 4
August 2, 2011 issue .....	due June 22

### SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS

**OUR PURPOSE** is to teach children the **skills** and **attitudes** needed to be productive members of society in order to improve the quality of life for **all**.

## Severe Weather Alert

By Mark Kasmer

Back in late October of 2010, our district experienced the unintended consequences of the "new" county-wide emergency alert system. As a result of a tornado warning issued in the very south-east part of Kent County, the emergency alert sirens were activated.

When the sirens activate, we 'take shelter'. Meaning, the staff/students move quickly to their designated shelter area. They follow specified and practiced procedures as outlined within our Safety Response Guide. Additionally, the district administrative personnel monitor the information shared through the Emergency Communication System: a designated radio frequency transmitted into every school/government building. When the warning is lifted, the 'all clear' signal is issued and students return to class and the daily schedule of activities.

Well... what we did not know was that the siren would be activated throughout the county regardless of the location of the warning. We were also unaware the sirens were re-activated every six minutes throughout the period of warning.

As a result, there were many scared, upset, annoyed and frustrated members in our educational community. This included a specific Central Office Administrator who had the National Weather Service on the telephone in an attempt to fully understand the issues, emergency protocols and expectations of school personnel.

When the dust settled, we all learned a few things. These understandings came from multiple conversations between local, county, national emergency personnel and district administration:

1. There are basically five (5) reasons the emergency alert system is activated.
  - a. Tornado Warning issued by the National Weather Service.
  - b. Tornado warning as witnessed by a 'trained' spotter.
  - c. Sustained winds of 70 (+) mph.
  - d. Hazardous Material Spill (biological or chemical incident outside buildings).
  - e. Terrorist or explosive incident (threat or actual).
2. Depending upon the warning, staff and students will follow the appropriate emergency protocol:
  - a. Take shelter: Move to safety area and take cover.
  - b. Lockdown: Lock all doors, no exit or entrance.
  - c. Evacuation: Move to another location/building.

Staff and Students are to remain in the designated area until the warning is lifted and administration issues an "all clear" signal.
3. During the time of the warning or the threat of a warning, school administration monitors emergency communication systems for specific information, and determine what action is to be taken.
4. During the "warning" the county-wide emergency sirens will be activated and will sound-off every six minutes until the warning has expired. The sirens are not set-up for activation in geographic portions of the county. Therefore, any "emergency warning" in any area within the county lines will result in alert sirens being activated throughout the county.

During weather related "warnings," parents are encouraged to have their children remain in school and in the designated area. No student shall be allowed out of his/her designated area unless his/her parent comes to school and requests the student to be released. These are the District's Administrative Guidelines for the School Board Policy & Bylaw 8220 - Emergency Situations at School. There are certain emergency situations whereby students and staff will be required to remain in a designated safety area, and no individuals will be allowed to be released. However, these are obviously due to rare and exceptional circumstances.

Sparta Schools is known to have a very good safety response plan. A "Core Team" meets monthly and membership includes local authorities, building representatives and district personnel. Also, each building has a Medical Emergency Response Team (MERT). The MERT members are trained in CPR and basic first-aid. If there is a medical issue at a building they are the first-responders if the district nurse is not on site.

As a result of this information and our recent experience, we hope that all members of our educational community share a better understanding of the local, county and national emergency alert systems. When severe weather warnings are issued... we'll be ready!

## School Closings and Delays

A possible two-hour delay or closing of school due to inclement weather is a difficult decision and is always based on student safety. Road conditions may be very different in various parts of our district or conditions drastically change just prior to the beginning of the school day. **As a parent if you ever feel attending school is not safe for your student, you have the right and responsibility to excuse them on that day.**

It is not a decision which is taken lightly or made without considering all available information. We try to make the decision as early as possible in order for the media to alert students/parents and staff. Decisions are usually made by 6:00 a.m. so that the media can broadcast information no later than 6:30 a.m. We are also going to continue posting delays and closing information on the Sparta Area Schools website, [www.spartaareaschools.org](http://www.spartaareaschools.org).

With the changing weather comes the possibility of school closings and delays. Please listen to your local radio, television stations or check the web page:

TELEVISION STATIONS	RADIO STATIONS	WEB SITES
WZZM 13	93.7 WBCT	<a href="http://WWW.WZZM13.COM">WWW.WZZM13.COM</a>
WOOD 8	95.7 WLHT	<a href="http://WWW.WOODTV.COM">WWW.WOODTV.COM</a>
WWMT 3	96.1 WVTI	<a href="http://WWW.WWMT.COM">WWW.WWMT.COM</a>
	96.9 WLAV	
	97.9 WGRD	
	100.5 WTRV	
	1300 WOOD AM	

### IN THE EVENT OF A TWO HOUR DELAY:

- There will be no AM kindergarten, ECDD or preschool.
- No morning breakfast programs will be held.
- Those students who are transported to other districts for special programs will also be delayed two hours.
- The Before and After School Care programs will be held at their regular time.

### IN THE EVENT OF A SCHOOL CLOSING:

- There is no transportation to other districts.
- The Before School and After School Care program will be available at Appview. Child care at WECC will be open.



## 2010 Fall High School Sports Wrap-Up

*All-Conference Athletes, District and State*

### Girl's Cross Country

All-Conference - Alesha Reed and Kelsey Thome  
 Honorable Mention - Alycia Wright  
 State Qualifier - Alesha Reed

### Boy's Cross Country

All-Conference - A.J. Christafferson, Brandon George and Jake Gilman  
 Honorable Mention - Adam Birkeland  
 Team placed 2nd at Regional Meet  
 6th place finish at State Finals and Academic All-State team honors

### Football

All-Conference - Camron Cooper and Dan Konkle  
 Honorable Mention - Tony Hill and Troy Panehal

### Soccer

All-Conference - Cody Deruischer and Brent Fessenden  
 Honorable Mention - Chad Klinge  
 All-District- Cody Deruischer, Brent Fessenden, Roy Guerra and Chad Klinge

### Boy's Tennis

All-Conference - Jared Bradford and Jake Siegel

### Girl's Volleyball

All-Conference - Grace Tuttle

Sparta Community Theatre presents *The Musical Comedy*

# Bye Bye Birdie

Wednesday, February 23 at 7:30pm

Thursday, February 24 at 7:30pm

Friday, February 25 at 7:30pm

Saturday, February 26 at 2:00 & 7:30pm

Sunday, February 27 at 2:00pm

## Sparta High School Auditorium

Tickets available at the door

Adults \$7.50 Students/Seniors \$7.00

Reserved tickets call 887-7505 ext 2902

Book by Michael Stewart  
 Music by Charles Strouse  
 Lyrics by Lee Adams



From left, Tom Bennett and Arnie DePagter with Hall of Fame Inductees; Steve VanOeffelen, Mike VanderHyde, Todd Eck, David Andrus, Chad Kik and Ron Helmboldt.

## 50 Years of Sparta Wrestling!

The 2010-11 season begins with this year's team sporting a 6-0 record and the induction of 5 state champions, Steve VanOeffelen, Class of 1973, Mike VanderHyde, Class of 1973, Todd Eck, Class of 1981, David Andrus, Class of 1991 and Chad Kik, Class of 1992 on Sunday, December 5 into the athletic Hall of Fame. Also inducted was Coach Ron Helmboldt, 1967 - 2005. Inductees were presented with a Hall of Fame plaque from Joe Droski, Athletic Director and a framed record of wrestling statistics from Coach Bennett and the current high school wrestling team. The celebration will continue on Wednesday, January 26 at the Sparta/Cedar Springs home wrestling match. All former wrestlers are invited to attend.

Bring your Family & Friends to



Dine Out at  
**McDonald's**

**Tuesday, February 8**

See your favorite Sparta teachers  
 working behind the counter!



Sparta Education Foundation

Visit our website, [www.spartaschools.org/organizations](http://www.spartaschools.org/organizations)

## Sparta's Fifth Annual Relay for Life (American Cancer Society's Signature Event)

The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life gives the entire community an opportunity to celebrate survivors, remember those we've lost, and fight back against the disease that touches so many of our lives. When cancer affects you or someone you love, you can get help from the American Cancer Society. Relay for Life is a way that we can raise much needed funds and also raise awareness in hopes that we can survive and thrive in a world where cancer is no longer a major health issue.

Sparta's Fifth Relay for Life will be held on June 10-11 from noon to noon. We have many teams returning from year's past and we are encouraging new teams to form. If you would like to find out more about this event, how to form a team, or how to get involved in other ways, please contact Lynn Schaner, event chair, at [LSchaner@aol.com](mailto:LSchaner@aol.com) or 887-7293.

You can get the most updated information and find out about cancer resources in your community by calling the American Cancer Society's 24 hour toll-free number at 1-800-ACS-2345 or by visiting their website at <http://www.cancer.org>.



# RIDGEVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Important Dates at Ridgeview

### JANUARY

Jan. 3 ..... School resumes  
Jan 14.....PTC Movie Night - *Toy Story 3* showing at 7:00 p.m.  
Jan. 20-21 ..... NO SCHOOL - Teacher Workdays

### FEBRUARY

Feb. 9 ..... Student Count Day, Spring Pictures  
Feb. 12 ..... PTC Daddy/Daughter Dance  
Feb. 14 ..... Valentine's Day Parties  
Early Childhood - 9:30-10:30 a.m. & 1:30-2:30 p.m.  
Kdg. AM & 1st Grade - 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
Kdg. PM & M/W/F - 1:15-2:15 p.m.  
2nd Grade - 1:30-2:30 p.m.

For more information about upcoming events, visit [www.spartaschools.org](http://www.spartaschools.org), click on your school, then "calendar" to see the district wide calendar.



Curt Ryno with his daughter Chloe

## Thanksgiving Feast

It was Feast Day to celebrate Thanksgiving in the Early Childhood Programs at Ridgeview on Wednesday, November 17th. We had wonderful participation for our progressive dinner and the food was fantastic. Each family contributed to a part of our dinner and the families traveled from room to room to eat, socialize and meet new

friends. There are four Early Childhood rooms in our hallway at Ridgeview and each room had a role in the dinner. One room was appetizers and salads, one room was the main course and one room was desserts. In one room we had the book *Owl Babies* read to us and made our own owl puppets. For the 3 and 4 year olds it was exciting to see which group would have dessert first! We were thankful for great participation and breaking of bread with our families.

## Creative Gifts

Kindergarten has been working hard! Between all of our hard work, during our down time, we were lucky enough to make beautiful gifts for our parents. A local potter, Phil Wilson, came into our classrooms with supplies in hand and walked us through making a gorgeous vase for our kindergarten parents Christmas gifts. The kids had a wonderful time getting dirty and creating their masterpieces. Some students added a scene on the piece; others created flowers and butterflies, one friend even made a bowling lane because he knew his father loved bowling! The pieces were painted and returned to our students just in time to bubble wrap them and send them home for Christmas! The students are very excited to give their gifts to their parents, in fact, some have already spilled the beans about our pottery!



## First Grade Visits Rouge River Credit Union

The first graders at Ridgeview Elementary had the opportunity to take a tour of the Rouge River Credit Union. They discovered first hand the responsibilities of the employees such as working the teller window, crunching numbers, and helping customers through the loan process. The students learned that there is more to the credit union than just getting money. People can start a savings or checking account, apply for a loan, and even house their valuables in a safety deposit box. The students even got to hold \$500 worth of quarters!

The trip ended with a snack and the first graders decorating the credit union's Christmas tree with ornaments they had made in class. This trip was a real world experience that connects with the first grade standards of spending and saving. They had a great time! We would like to give a special thanks to Stacy Doman and all the employees from the credit union.



# APPLEVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Important Dates at Appleview

### JANUARY

Jan. 3 ..... School resumes  
Jan 20-21 ..... NO SCHOOL - Teacher Workdays

### FEBRUARY

Feb. 9 ..... Student Count Day  
Feb. 10 & 15 ..... Parent/Teacher Conferences, 3:30-7:00 p.m.  
Feb. 14 ..... Valentine's Day Parties, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

For more information about upcoming events, visit [www.spartaschools.org](http://www.spartaschools.org), click on your school, then "calendar" to see the district wide calendar.



LINK students in Mrs. Swanson's 5th grade class and Mrs. Davis' 4th grade class.

## Appleview LINKS

### Helping Students Connect With Their Peers

In October, a new Peer-to-Peer Support Program was started at Appleview Elementary. The LINKS program was designed to assist students with learning differences. Students in general education settings are 'linked' with same age peers with learning differences to help support them throughout the school day. The LINKS program is lead by Appleview teachers, Cheryl Schneider and Emily Molesta, who help provide opportunities for interaction between general education students and students with social or learning challenges. LINK students provide support to students with learning differences throughout the school day during Science, Specials, Lunch and Recess. This program allows students to relate to people with different needs, increase their understanding of individual differences. The mission of the program is to help increase awareness of student differences and build a stronger community within our school. Students with challenges learn social skills in the natural setting, and students without disabilities gain self-confidence, empathy and leadership skills.

The program, in its infancy, has generated a lot of interest among students and currently the program has nearly sixty 4th and 5th grade students participating. Students in Mrs. Swanson's 5th grade class and Mrs. Davis' 4th grade class have volunteered to be part of the LINKS program and provide support to their peers. Each month, students have team meetings where they learn new strategies for helping other students and are able to ask questions. Team building activities such as lunch dates, craft activities, field trips and games are also planned for students to engage with each other and create relationships they may not have formed otherwise. Other fun activities such as a guessing jar and coloring contests help keep interest and fun in the program. The Sparta Education Foundation generously granted the LINKS program funding to continue the work of fostering social skills and independence among Appleview students. These funds will provide games, craft supplies, athletic equipment, lunches, and an end of the year banquet to reward LINK students for a job well done. The LINKS program is also accepting donations from local businesses to help partner in supporting Sparta students. If you have any questions or would like more information about LINKS or to make a donation, please contact Cheryl or Emily at Appleview Elementary 887-1743 ex. 4132.

## USA Days

Our "USA Days" have been a huge success! Several times during the course of the year, 5th grade students have an opportunity to participate in the activity of their choosing. In September, October, and December, several parents volunteered to teach an activity to a group of 10 students each. Do you have a talent or hobby that kids would enjoy? Can you cook, craft, golf, scrapbook? Do you have a talent you'd like to share with grateful 5th graders? Contact a 5th grade teacher to volunteer; the life you enrich may be your own!





# APPLEVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



4th grade students, Austin, Eric and Danielle get a hands-on lesson in magnetism and electricity.

## Magnets & Electricity

Miss Rykse's and Mrs. Kilpatrick's fourth grade classes explored magnets and electricity with Mr. Walda during a science assembly this fall. All fourth grade students learned about the properties of magnets and electricity. It was great hands-on fun for all of the students.

What items in your kitchen use energy? This fall, 4th grade students learned the answers to this question as Mr. Walda came to our school and talked to us about magnets and electricity. Mr. Walda is a retired Sparta High School science teacher. We learned that everything is made from tiny units called atoms and that energy can change from one form to another form. Students also saw lightning in a box! At the end of the presentation, Mr. Walda had stations set up for students to further explore magnets and electricity using hands-on materials. Some of these stations were also made available for classroom use throughout the week. What a great way for students to learn and have fun exploring at the same time!



Appleview teachers get a lesson in Bal-A-Vis-X.

## Bal-A-Vis-X

When was the last time you watched teachers bouncing racquetballs in the hallway? What about balancing on balance boards while bouncing racquetballs? The Appleview staff isn't trying out for the circus. Rather, we are learning to use a program called Bal-A-Vis-X so that we can better teach our Appleview students. Bal-A-Vis-X helps the brains of children and adults alike to focus

and work more efficiently, using balance, auditory and visual exercises. Research shows that particular types of movement help the different parts of the brain to work together and communicate, helping with concentration, reading fluency, auditory and visual memory (math facts and concepts) and attention. Stop by and check out the program, contact Melissa Utter (melissa.utter@staff.spartaschools.org), or visit the website at bal-a-vis-x.com (research tab).

## Appleview Makes Soldiers' Christmas Bright

On December 3, our Sparta Hunting and Fishing Club sent care packages for 75 local service men and women who are currently active in the military. When they first opened the package on Christmas day, warm letters and bright cards from Appleview 3rd grade students were laying on top. Grace Wilcox wrote, "Sometimes I am too scared to sleep at night, so I think of you, and I know I am safe." Kelcie Stowie wrote, "Your job tells me that you love everybody. I wonder what you look like." Deondray Thomas connected, "I know how it feels to be missing part of your family." "You are my hero! I am joyful you survived!" exclaimed Jessa Edwards. Zach Strayer speaks for all of us, "Stay safe! It's dangerous." "Hopin' for the best! Love, Gavin (Goss)." Some of our students also wrote about family traditions and activities in hopes that our soldiers would reflect back and spark a memory for themselves and their loved ones. Our students felt pride and compassion for our soldiers as our love, thoughts, and prayers were stuffed into the full care packages from Sparta Hunting and Fishing Club.

## Middle School Media Center News

The Sparta Middle School Media Center is collecting Spartan UPC codes. You may drop them off in the middle school office or send them to the media center with your student. Please spread the word to your family members that may not receive the Bell Ringer. We also recycle your empty name brand ink cartridges. All proceeds help support the Accelerated Reading program and the many extras in the media center.



# SPARTA MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Important Middle School Dates

### JANUARY

Jan. 3 ..... School resumes  
Jan. 20-21 ..... NO SCHOOL - Teacher Workdays  
Jan. 24 ..... Meet in the Middle meeting, 6:15 p.m., Admin. building  
Jan. 28 ..... Progress Reports go home

### FEBRUARY

Feb. 1 & 3 ..... Student Led Conferences, 4:30-7:00 p.m.  
Feb. 28 ..... Meet in the Middle meeting, 6:15 p.m., Admin. building

For more information about upcoming events, visit [www.spartaschools.org](http://www.spartaschools.org), click on your school, then "calendar" to see the district wide calendar.

## Sparta Middle School Fundraiser - a SUCCESS!

Meet in the Middle PTO would like to thank all the participants in our FIRST theme basket silent auction fundraiser!! The creativity, community support, and ideas were amazing. High five goes to Mr. Tidey's 6th grade advisory, whose Spartan Pride shined with their efforts bringing a win for the highest basket bid. **Hats off to ALL who made this a success!**



## Student Government Toy Collection

Sparta Middle School collected toys from Nov. 22 to Dec. 8. Advisories were challenged to bring in as many toys as they could to contribute to the Toys for Tots campaign which gives needy children in the area presents for Christmas. Winners in each grade

level will receive breakfast. Student Government members also made boxes to put in area businesses so the community could give too.

Student Government members appeared on WZZM news Friday, Dec. 10 at 6:30 am to present the toys that were collected. Thank you to all students, parents, and community members that helped make Christmas a little brighter for those in need.

Student Government members are: President - Erica Humphreys, Vice President - Mary McHugh, Secretaries - Delaney Lenger and Makayla Popma, Treasurer - Madison Myers, 8th Grade Senate - Hannah Wheeler and Jessica Hoover, 7th Grade Senate - Dakota Marble and Lizzie Miedzielec, 6th grade Senate - Trent Smith, Lydia DuPont, Mya Kaliniak, Abby Slatowski, Advisory board members - Troy Braspeninx, Skylar Anderson, Grace Tarala, Annie Rademacher, Karlee Robinson, Victor Perez, and Carley Andrews.

## Give Your Child Carnations for Valentine's Day!

Sparta Middle School's Student Government is sponsoring a carnation sale for Valentine's Day. Students will be able to buy carnations for other students during their lunch times for \$1 a carnation. Parents or grandparents wanting to purchase carnations for their middle school child can do so by: filling out the order form below, enclosing it and the proper amount of money in an envelope and bringing it to the middle school office on or before Monday, February 7. Your child's flowers will be delivered to them on Monday, February 14 at school.

Profits from this sale will benefit the Student Government fund.  
Questions? Please call Mrs. Higgins 887-7506 Ext 2328

### Carnation Order Form

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Advisory Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Rm # \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ white carnations @ \$1 each      # \_\_\_\_\_ red carnations @ \$1 each

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ total cost (must be enclosed with order)

Message to student:

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Return order form and money to the middle school office by Monday, February 7.



# SPARTA HIGH SCHOOL

## Parent/Teacher Conferences March 7, 5:00-7:30 p.m.

For more information about upcoming events at the high school, visit [www.spartaschools.org](http://www.spartaschools.org), click on your school, then "calendar" to see the district wide calendar.

## FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

Monday, January 17, 2011  
7:00 P.M.

### Sparta High School Auditorium

Tips on filling out the F.A.F.S.A.  
(Free Application for Federal Student Aid)  
will be presented by

Paul Doane of Grand Rapids Community College.

*What is the application for? "Federal student financial aid" refers to federal grant, loans and work-study funds for your education. The Federal student assistance programs can help pay for most kinds of education after high school. The aid is available, if you are attending a college, professional school or technical school. It is also used by the State government and colleges to determine financial need. The FAFSA can now be completed over the Internet and is due March 1, 2011! The web site is [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Worksheets are available in the guidance office. Apply online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)*

## ACT Workshop

GREAT OPPORTUNITY for juniors to get ready for that all-important upcoming A.C.T.!

An A.C.T. Test Preparation Workshop will be offered to prepare students to take the A.C.T. Test. Timed practice sections covering each area of the test will be given under test conditions. There will be discussions on test taking skills and strategies, review of all instructions, timing techniques, guessing, and tips to avoid common errors.

DATE: Saturday, February 5, 2011

PLACE: Sparta High School

TIME: 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

COST: \$10.00 (includes pizza lunch)

P.S. Students may use their Renaissance cards for discounts:  
GOLD: \$5.00 off, SILVER: \$2.00 off, BRONZE: \$1.00 off.

**IMPORTANT:** Please sign up and pay in the Guidance Office by February 1. You must present your Renaissance card to be eligible for a discount.

**Class of 2011** We've extended the deadline on senior portraits. Please turn in your 2 x 3 vertical, color, shoulders-up shot ASAP. We are accepting printed and digital copies. We are also still accepting your baby shot with \$10.

## Senior Bash News

### ATTENTION SENIORS!

You are now entering the second half of your senior year- before you know it graduation will be here. Be sure not to miss the exciting all-night after graduation party that is planned for you. Your transportation, food, secret site experiences/entertainment, last memories with class friends and more are included!

Secure your spot now with a \$60 deposit due by Jan. 28th (balance of \$65 due by May 1st). We anticipate limited scholarships — see your counselor. Once your full payment is processed you will receive your BASH 2011 sweatshirt.

Submit your payment to "Senior BASH 2011" PO Box 353, Sparta, MI 49345 or turn in to Mrs. Bitely in the office now.

**DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE IN AN AWESOME ALL-NIGHT ADVENTURE WITH YOUR CLASSMATES. THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME YOU WILL ALL BE TOGETHER AS A CLASS.**

*Thank You!*

The 2011 Senior BASH Committee would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their support/contributions to BASH this fall: *Angela's Pizza, Beuschel Funeral Home, Choice One Bank, Hessel-Cheslek Funeral Home, Slimmin' For Women, Sparta DDA, Larry Allaben, Christine and Rob Steffens.*

Thanks also to those individuals that have participated in the various BASH 2011 fundraising effort — as well as to the parents & students that have made several events happen. Watch for upcoming opportunities to support BASH's efforts to fund and provide an awesome all-night after graduation party for the SHS senior class of 2011.

Please "favorite" our Facebook page (Sparta-MI-Senior-Bash) to stay informed.

## Principal's Coffee Hour

Come and join the Principal's Coffee Hour and meet other parents to learn what's going on at the high school. The Principal's Coffee Hour meets at 9:00 a.m. in the main office conference room on the January 28.



## A Taste of Culture at SHS

By Chelsi Knop

On Friday, October 15, the C100 Pod was packed full of ESL and foreign exchange students all displaying posters, banners, and iconic symbols from their homelands. Many curious students stopped by for a multifaceted experience: one that the sponsors dubbed "Culture Day." Sponsors, Ms. Veeneman and Mrs. Stark, provided the venue and students flocked to experience all of the different booths and interactive displays. Our four exchange students: Thilo Hartmann from Germany, Adriana Barreto from Bolivia, Matilda Arneri from Italy, and Yuri Ferrira de Abreu from Brazil had prominent displays from their home country for presentation. Many bilingual students were also a major part of Culture Day. Florance Muhorakeye represented Rwanda, Flora Garcia and Rodrigo Cruz represented Mexico, Marina Grettenberger represented Russia, and Karina Amarado and Anabella Orozco represented Puerto Rico. Sparta students "experienced the cultures" by tasting food, watching dances being performed, and talking firsthand with students from different countries. "We haven't done Culture Day since we moved up to the new building and I feel that it's very important for students to experience different cultures," Mrs. Stark said. Mrs. Stark, along with other staff members, will attempt to establish culture day as a mainstay in the high school schedule moving forward.



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## Writing Contest Winner:

**Charlotte Mazurek**

By Corrie Hobbs



Charlotte Mazurek, a local Sparta teen, recently earned a third place award in the Elmore Leonard Literary and Fine Arts Film Festival Fiction Writing Contest. Her story, "A Wintery Exchange," was the tale of a homeless man whose fortuitous meeting with a strange man changed his life forever.

As the third place winner, Charlotte attended the awards ceremony in Birmingham on Thursday, November 11th. When asked how she felt about the ceremony she replied, "I'm pretty excited, and it was cool to meet the guy who started this contest."

Charlotte received a certificate and the prize money of \$50 at the ceremony. She was able to meet Elmore Leonard himself and the other winners of the contest. She is very excited and cannot wait to enter more contests in the future.

## SHS School Store GRAND REOPENING

By Collin Gibisas



Ms. Wyman's class would like to announce the **GRAND REOPENING of the School Store** at the High School. We utilized Service Learning Grant money to purchase Point of Sale technology to offer students with disabilities more challenging and realistic retail training.

Our store will better prepare students to move on to the Kent Transition Center vocational training programs. We have just purchased nearly \$2000 worth of new inventory and invite the community to come up to the HS and check us out. We are open from 11:15 a.m. to 1:40 p.m. each day or by appointment. Let us know you are coming and we can be open **JUST FOR YOU!** Contact [renne.wyman@staff.spartaschools.org](mailto:renne.wyman@staff.spartaschools.org) or call us 887-8213. Great new items include: women's jackets, women's hooded T's, open leg sweat pants, new hooded sweatshirts, long-sleeved T-shirts in a great new softer lighter fabric, and youth hooded sweatshirts. Please come in and support our student-run business as we work to grow our employability skills!

# SPARTA ADULT EDUCATION



Choose the fast track to success...

## The Adult Education Accelerated Learning Program A School to Work Approach

You now have the opportunity to earn your high school diploma much faster than before! In addition to just receiving a diploma, this advanced program allows you to receive work experience in a field in which you are interested. You may also "try" different jobs through job shadowing and get training and experience through a variety of internships. You may be enrolled in a combination of the cluster areas listed on the right. When you complete a portion of each area, you will be eligible for a diploma - provided you have mastered the objectives. This program allows you to earn credit for up to 25 clock hours per week—even receiving credit, in some instances, while earning a pay check!

### A) BASIC SKILLS TRAINING

- Adult Basic Education (ABE)
- English As a Second Language (ESL)
- Applied Occupational Communications

### B) CAREER TECHNICAL TRAINING

- Computers, Office Machines
- Business Classes
- Applied Math
- Applied Science
- Accounting

### C) WORKPLACE READINESS TRAINING

- Community Service Learning
- Internships, Apprenticeships
- On-the-job Training
- Job Shadowing
- Internships within the school system (aides in classrooms, kitchen, custodial department, offices, child care center, on the playground, etc.)

**CALL 887-7321 FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ABOUT EARNING YOUR DIPLOMA.**

## SPARTA ADULT HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES

COST: Adult High School classes and program, English As a Second Language classes, and Basic Skills Training are FREE to all persons, resident or non-resident, who are:

- 1) at least 18 years of age and who are working toward a high school diploma or GED certificate, or need ESL training.
- 2) high school graduates under 20 years of age as of September 1 and are not attending an institution of higher learning, and are referred by an employer for job skills training.

All high school completion classes may also be taken by graduates for leisure time/enrichment at a fee of \$120.

If you can read this, but know someone who CAN'T... CALL 887-7321 for FREE classes!

### 2010-11 ADULT HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

Jan. 11-27 .... Second Semester Registration	Monday Classes ..... Jan. 31 - June 13
Jan. 25..... Classes Begin	Tuesday Classes ..... Jan. 25 - May 31
April 4-8..... Spring Break - No School	Wednesday Classes .. Feb. 2 - June 8
April 21 ..... No School	Thursday Classes ..... Feb. 3 - June 16
May 30 ..... Memorial Day - No School	

**BASIC SKILLS TRAINING**  
Reading, Spelling and Math  
Monday - Thursday, 6:00 - 9:20 p.m.  
Sparta Middle School Media Center

**Classes Begin:  
Jan. 25, 2011  
Call 887-7321 to  
register NOW.**

Class	Instructor	Day	Location	Time
<b>MONDAY CLASSES Begin January 31</b>				
Adult Basic Education, ESL, GED Preparation	Bill May	M	SMS, Media Center	6:00-9:20 p.m.
Applied Occupational Communications I	Doug Kleyn	M	SMS, Room 22	6:00-9:20 p.m.
<b>TUESDAY CLASSES Begin January 25</b>				
Adult Basic Education, ESL, GED Preparation	Bill May	Tu	SMS, Media Center	6:00-9:20 p.m.
Current American Issues	Chuck Steigenga	Tu	SMS, Room 22	6:00-9:20 p.m.
<b>WEDNESDAY CLASSES Begin February 2</b>				
Adult Basic Education, ESL, GED Preparation	Bill May	W	SMS, Media Center	6:00-9:20 p.m.
Keyboarding/Word Processing I	Brian VanLente	W	SMS, Room 23	6:00-9:20 p.m.
<b>THURSDAY CLASSES Begin February 3</b>				
Adult Basic Education, ESL, GED Preparation	Bill May	Th	SMS, Media Center	6:00-9:20 p.m.
Applied Math / Earth Sciences / Biology	Bob Sadowski	Th	SMS, Room 22	6:00-9:20 p.m.

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS: Evening classes will be held even though day classes may have been canceled unless a SEPARATE RADIO OR TV ANNOUNCEMENT indicates otherwise. The decision to cancel evening classes will be made by 3:00 p.m. Classes are automatically canceled for tornado watches or warnings. Cancellations are announced on local television and radio stations. Canceled classes will be made up.

## COURSES OFFERED

### APPLIED OCCUPATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS I

The learner will practice and improve reading, writing, listening and speaking skills relevant to common business procedures. Students will engage in activities, presentations and analysis of business practices, trends and issues. Content will be tailored to the students' interests and goals to ensure practicality. Entrepreneurship structures and procedures will be examined and students will be encouraged to consider potential opportunities. Students will job-shadow at local businesses to gain experience relevant to the occupational goals. Evaluation will center on completion of a structured portfolio that includes summaries and documents related to the above skills and components.

### KEYBOARDING/INTRODUCTION TO WORD PROCESSING

This three semester class is structured to teach and review the basic keyboarding components, and develop the accuracy and speed of each student so they attain employable levels of competence. The focus of the class will be on beginning skills, but will also develop advanced skills. Students will develop a working knowledge of letter writing skills, resume' preparation, and basic desktop publishing using Microsoft Office 2003. Advanced students will work on computerized accounting using spreadsheets to develop their chart of accounts, general ledger files and financial statements.

Students will use Microsoft Office 2003, a classroom Microsoft Office textbook, DDC computer applications for business textbook, keyboarding textbooks, Fastype Tutorial 6, a computerized accounting procedure textbook and practice sets from South Western Publishing Co. Files will be saved on the district's file server.

### APPLIED MATH I

Students will achieve proficiency and mastery in the use of fractions, decimals, and percentages; to master skills relating to perimeter and area of squares and rectangles, circumference and area of circles.

### APPLIED MATH II

Students will achieve proficiency and mastery of basic algebraic skills; the use of signed numbers, powers (positive and negative exponents) and roots, algebraic expression and formulas, algebraic equations, graphing, use of graphing to solve algebraic problems.

### CURRENT AMERICAN ISSUES I

Current American Issues I is designed to explore and provide a better understanding of the current economic challenges confronting individuals and our nation as a whole. The course will utilize a problem solving format, allowing students to take an active role in examining not only what the economic challenges are but also proposed solutions to overcome them.

### CURRENT AMERICAN ISSUES II

Current American Issues II examines the American political process with particular attention given to how an individual can participate in it. While consideration will be given to the underlying structure and constitutional foundations of our government, the overall emphasis of the class will be on the dynamics of the process and the practical application of personal skills to achieving desired public policy objectives.

### CURRENT AMERICAN ISSUES III

This course examines a number of critical national issues. Each issue will be examined in considerable depth, using an analytical framework to provide structure and focus. Particular emphasis will be given to various proposed solutions for dealing with the problems associated with the issues along with the pros and cons for each solution.

### APPLIED SCIENCE I, II

This course will focus on presenting students with the chance to learn about the environment in which they live and other topics relating to Earth Science, Anatomy and Physical Science. This course will open the fields of learning to Chemistry, Biology, and a little Physics. Some computer applications will be included.

## First Aid & CPR Classes

### CPR-AED - \$30

Child Care/Teaching, Adult Foster Care & Work Place/Industrial Adult, Child, & Infant CPR, AED & Choking  
4th Saturday: Jan. 22, Feb. 26 & March 26; 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### First Aid - \$25

Child Care/Teaching, Adult Foster Care & Work Place/Industrial With Blood Borne Pathogen Training  
4th Saturday: Jan. 22, Feb. 26 & March 26; 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### CPR-AED & First Aid Combination - \$45

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### (BLS) Health Care Provider CPR-AED - \$40

Medical & Dental Professionals/Healthcare Students - Initial Training & Recertification  
Book may be exchanged for CPR Mask at class  
4th Saturday: Jan. 22, Feb. 26 & March 26; 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

All Instruction provided by Sparta Ambulance (A division of Rockford Ambulance). All Classes are American Heart Association authorized. All Classes held @ Meadowlark Retirement Village located at 65 Ida Red (Near M-37 & 13 Mile Rd). Materials (Book) & Card (2 year AHA) provided upon completion.

To register, call Rockford Ambulance Service at 616-866-0724.

## Sparta Area Schools Community Walking Schedule 2010-11

### SPARTA HIGH SCHOOL

Mon., Wed., Fri. 7:00-7:45 a.m.

Walkers must sign in at the office as they come the main entrance. Facility usage is limited to the walking rack in the field house area. Visitors should not be in any other part of the building and must exit the building by 7:45 a.m. or sooner if they complete their walk. Parking is available in the visitors spaces at the front of the student parking.

### SPARTA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs. 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Walkers should enter the main entrance in the front of the building. This is the same format as past years with walking limited to the hallways making the loop around the courtyard. There are adult education classes in session, so visitors are asked to keep noise to a minimum in order not to disturb instruction. All walkers must exit the building by 8:30 p.m.

\*\*When there are scheduling conflicts with school activities, walking may be cancelled.\*\*

Community Education continued on page 8

# Dodge Ball Tourney

**January 29, 2011  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Sparta High School**

**Age Divisions:** 5th grade and under  
6th grade - 8th grade  
Open - 9th grade thru adults

**Cost: \$50 per team**  
(Teams can consist of 5 to 10 players)

\*Team sign-up sheet, signed waiver forms with \$50 team registration fee must be returned to the Sparta High School Athletic Office by January 21, 2011!

Sign-up sheets and waiver forms are available at the high school and online at [www.gosparta.com](http://www.gosparta.com)

**QUESTIONS: 887-8213 ext. 1319**  
Funds raised benefit the  
**Sparta High School Cross Country Teams**

## Sparta Education Foundation's



Dine Out at  
**McDonald's**

**Tuesday, February 8**

## RETRO BOWL 2011

**Day of Family Fun at Sparta Lanes!**  
**Saturday, March 19**  
Watch for information to come home in February  
or visit our website,  
[www.spartaschools.org/organizations](http://www.spartaschools.org/organizations)

### BOARD MEMBERS

Warren Hill .....President  
Carol Shirey.....Vice President  
Julie McCallum .....Secretary  
Clay Brown .....Treasurer  
Jim Kerby, M.D.....Trustee  
Nick Lewis .....Trustee  
Tom DuPont .....Trustee

### MANAGEMENT TEAM

Mr. Kent Swinson.....Superintendent.....887-8253  
Mr. Mark Kasmer..... Assistant Superintendent .....887-8253  
Mr. Mike O'Connor..... Director, Adult Education .....887-7321  
Mr. Matt Spencer.....Principal, Sparta High School.....887-8213  
Principal, Englishville High School  
Mr. Cary Stamas..... Assistant Principal, Sparta High School .....887-8213  
Mr. Joe Droski..... Athletic Director .....887-2098  
Mr. Joel Stoner..... Principal, Sparta Middle School. ....887-8211  
Mr. Steve Johnson..... Assistant Principal, Sparta Middle School. ....887-8211  
Mr. Kris Vydareny..... Principal, Appleview Elementary .....887-1743  
Ms. Nicole Peterson..... Principal, Ridgeview Elementary .....887-8218  
Ms. Marialyce Zeerip.....District Grants & Auxiliary Programs Director .....887-7321  
Ms. Deborah Dufour..... RTI Coordinator .....887-8218  
Mrs. Susan Gates..... Special Education Supervisor .....887-7359  
Mr. Tim Kleaveland.....Food Service Director.....887-1744  
Mr. Jerry Gavin..... Transportation Director .....887-0136  
Mr. Tony Smolinski..... Operations Supervisor .....887-0136

### BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

Meetings are generally held on the second Monday of the month at the Board of Education offices, 465 S. Union St., Sparta, MI 49345. Meetings are open to the public and begin at 7:30 p.m.

*The Bell Ringer* is published by the Sparta Board of Education. Please call 887-8253 with inquiries.

The Sparta Area Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability in its programs and activities. In order to protect these rights and assure compliance, the Sparta Area School District has appointed Mr. Joe Droski as Coordinator of Title IX, Mr. Mark Kasmer as Coordinator of Title II, VI, and the Age Discrimination Act and Mrs. Susan Gates as the Coordinator of Section 504.

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION *cont.*

Must be 18 years of age or older to participate in open gym basketball and volleyball.

### 30 & Over Basketball

**When:** Sundays  
**Where:** Middle School Gym  
**Time:** 5:00-8:00 p.m.  
**Weeks:** Ongoing (November - April)  
**Cost:** \$2 per person/per week



### Open Gym Volleyball

**When:** Sundays  
**Where:** Ridgeview Elementary Gym  
**Time:** 6:00-8:00 p.m.  
**Weeks:** Ongoing (November - April)  
**Fee:** \$2 per person/per week



### Ballroom Dancing

Join the fun, enjoy the exercise and learn the basics of swing, foxtrot, waltz, touch dancing and the hustle. For beginner and intermediate levels.  
Instructor: Chris Taylor



**When:** Mar. 15 - Apr. 26  
(will not meet April 5, spring break week)  
**Time:** Beginners 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Intermediate 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Appleview Cafeteria  
**Cost:** \$75/couple

### AIM USA Volleyball

An experienced AIM USA volleyball coach teaches this fun and action-packed program. We have classes for both the beginning and intermediate players. Students will learn and refine the proper skills and techniques to be successful volleyball players. These skills will be key to their future volleyball success. Classes are focused on the skills needed to compete on the middle school team. Students will earn certificates and medals.

**When:** Thursdays, beginning January 27 - March 23, 2011

**Where:** Ridgeview Elementary Gym  
Class I 6:00 - 6:45 p.m. Beginners, 4th-6th grade  
Class II 6:45 - 7:30 p.m.  
Intermed./Advance, 5th-6th grade  
**Cost:** \$69.00

### AIM (Athletes in Motion) Self Defense

This fun course is designed for self-defense purposes emphasizing child safety awareness. From the bully on the playground to the person on the street looking to kidnap a child, your child is taught skills which enable him/her to survive in this world. Self discipline rather aggressiveness is promoted.

**When:** Tuesdays, beginning January 27 - March 29, 2011

**Where:** Ridgeview Elementary Gym  
Class I - 6:00 - 6:45 p.m. Beginning students, all ages  
Class II - 6:45 - 7:30 p.m. Returning students, 5-7  
Class II - 7:30 - 8:15 p.m. Returning students, 8-15  
**Cost:** \$69.00

### AIM Tumbling & Gymnastics

This fun and exciting program is designed to enhance self-confidence and improve coordination, physical fitness and flexibility. Learn from experienced instructors who teach the skills of floor gymnastics and tumbling. Students earn certificates, ribbons and medals. Beginning students will learn fundamentals and returning students learn advanced skills. Parent/Tot classes focus on developmental areas of coordination and motor skills.

**When:** Tuesdays, beginning January 27 - March 29, 2011

**Where:** Ridgeview Elementary Gym  
Class I 6:00 - 6:45 p.m. Students ages 4-5  
Class II 6:45 - 7:30 p.m. Students ages 6-7  
Class III 7:30 - 8:15 p.m. Students ages 8-10  
**Cost:** \$69.00

### Sparta Little League 2011 Sign-Ups

Players/Coaches/Umpires

**Sign up at Sundaes at the Park**

Saturday February 5th 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Saturday February 12th 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
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~ LATE SIGNUPS ~

February 24th 6-8 p.m.

\*ADDITIONAL \$5.00 LATE FEE\*

Please bring the following...

1. Copy of Birth Certificate (*1st Year Players*)
2. Medical Insurance Information
3. Payment:  
\$45.00 per player (T-Ball & Coach Pitch)  
(*ONLY Shirt & Hat - NO PANTS*)  
\$55.00 per player (Minor/Major/Junior/Senior)  
\$130.00 Family Maximum Sign-up Fee

LEAGUE AGE

\*BOYS age by April 30, 2011

\*GIRLS age by Dec 31, 2010

### Sparta Youth Soccer Association Spring 2011 Sign-ups

The Sparta Youth Soccer Association is now taking registrations for the 2011 spring soccer season!

To get a registration form visit our web site at  
[www.spartayouthsoccer.com](http://www.spartayouthsoccer.com)

Pick one up at one of our local Elementary schools or at Sparta Dollar N More.

Early registration is happening now until Feb. 24. All registrations are due by March 4. Any registrations receive after March 4 will be placed on a waiting list.

Ever wonder how to pay for all those school expenses? Scrip is it...

### Scrip Night Every Monday, 7-8 p.m. High School Media Center

Purchase gift cards (*at face value*) and receive funds in your family account. Funds can be used to cover any school related expense.

*All Sparta school families welcome!*

Visit [spartabands.org](http://spartabands.org)  
for more information

## CALL 887-7321 TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES

### Lego® Engineering Class

Students will creatively build and modify machines applying basic engineering principles and using specialized, unique LEGO® kits. This is an integrated science and math class. Concepts include:

- Basic engineering principles
- Gears and gear ratios
- Simple machines
- Structures, forces, motion
- Problem solving
- Communication skills

**Jr. Vehicle Engineering** - grades 1 & 2

**Where:** Ridgeview Elementary, Room TBA

**When:** Tuesdays, Feb. 1-Feb. 22, 2011, 3:35-5:35 p.m.

**Cost:** \$69.00 per student.

A snack and drink will be provided.

Minimum enrollment - 12

Maximum enrollment - 16

**Collision Cars** - grades 3-5

**Where:** Appleview Elementary, Room 110

**When:** Tuesdays, March 1-March 22, 2011, 3:35-5:35 p.m.

**Cost:** \$69 per student.

A snack, drink, and afterschool care will be provided.

Minimum enrollment - 12

Maximum enrollment - 22

## 2011 AIM Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gr. \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

What programs do you want to register for? \_\_\_\_\_

I realize that by signing this form I will not hold Sparta Area Schools and/or their staff, coaches, or employees or Athletes in Motion, Inc. responsible for any accidents or loss of personal property, however caused. I realize that the staff of Sparta Area Schools and Athletes in Motion, Inc. will do everything possible to offer a safe and injury free program. I realize that by participating in these programs, there is a certain degree of risk and injuries may occur. I also verify, by signing this waiver, the above participant is covered by a family health plan. If the above participant is not covered by a health plan, I, the undersigned, will assume all financial responsibilities for any injuries that might occur. Waiver must be signed for your child to participate.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with a check to: Sparta Community Education, 1655 - 12 Mile Rd., Sparta MI 49345