



Brandon Proctor



Kerstan Sarafin

Englishville Students Compete at State Level

Englishville students Brandon Proctor and Kerstan Sarafin were recently chosen to represent Kent Career and Technical Center (KCTC) in two state competitions. Proctor competed in the Ford/AAA Student Auto Skills Competition, while Sarafin competed in the SkillsUSA Quiz Bowl. Both students qualified by earning high scores on preliminary tests. Proctor and his teammate came in 7th place, while Sarafin's team came in 4th in their competition.

Brandon Proctor, who is enrolled in KCTC's automotive technology program, went to Macomb Community College near Detroit to compete. He teamed up with one other KCTC student. They were given a car with a problem, and 90 minutes to study the problem and repair the car. "They gave us a sample work order and 90 minutes to diagnose and fix it," says Proctor. "Our work order said the car wouldn't shift. We got most of it going. On the new Mustangs, if the brake light doesn't work, it won't shift. We figured that out and got it shifting, but we didn't have enough time to replace a burned out license plate light and a broken trunk latch." Proctor says he got more familiar with diagnostic scanning tools, and that he got to tour Ford's Romeo Engine Plant. Proctor is considering a career in automotive technology, and next week will be attending an open house at the University of Northwestern Ohio.

Kerstan Sarafin is enrolled in KCTC's Graphic Design program. She studied and practiced at weekly sessions with her KCTC teammates, then travelled to Lansing to compete with her team in a quiz bowl covering topics in academics, current events, and leadership. Sarafin says the best part was "attending the quiz bowl, because the whole hotel was filled with contestants, and you were in a whole different world. You could just sit in the lobby and talk to so many different people." Sarafin is in her junior year at Englishville. When she graduates, she plans to pursue a career in psychology, working with teens.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Last year at this time my comments focused on the many challenges facing public education in light of economic pressures and the worldwide recession. Honestly, I do not believe anyone anticipated that the election of a new Governor and many new legislators would bring about the type of change being asked of schools now. Finances, regardless of resistance, are going to drive how Michigan's children are going to be educated. Our mission to provide the best educational opportunities possible for the students of Sparta is going to be tested in many ways. Not all people are going to agree with necessary changes, however the commitment we must keep is basing all decisions on what is best for students.

The most difficult decisions of all are ones which involve staffing cuts or reductions. Behind each and every staffing reduction is a face and personal story. This weighs very heavy on the decision making process. We feel strongly that all Sparta staff members are valued for their contribution to our district. It is easier to say instruction comes first then to inform a staff member that due to funding they will not have a job next school year. Please keep the needs of individuals in mind as we make our way through these difficult times.

"Behind each and every staffing reduction is a face and personal story."

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A Special Guest Visits

A visit by a guest is always exciting to 5th graders at Appleview

Elementary, but Mrs. Swanson and Mrs. Utter's classes enjoyed an extra-special visit from very far away. While deployed to Afghanistan, Lance Corporal Charlie Urbanski wrote letters and sent pictures to our students. Some of the students wrote letters and sent drawings back, which Charlie proudly displayed on his base far from home.

When he finished his tour and returned stateside safe and sound, Charlie surprised our students with an in-person visit. He held our students' attention with pictures, a question-and-answer session, and stories of the people he met there. Students also were able to get some perspective from Charlie's mom, who was with him visiting family in Michigan.

A big Team USA thank you to Charlie for your visit and your service.



Lance Corporal Charlie Urbanski surprises students.

Administrative Office Summer Hours

The administrative office will be open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. starting June 13 through August 19.

The office is closed on Fridays during the summer.

Congratulations Top Ten Sparta Graduates!



GABRIELLE DOMAN, Valedictorian, daughter of Jim Doman and Jane Shaddeau-Hess, graduated with a grade point average of 4.12. Gabrielle was a key figure at Sparta High School during her tenure. She played volleyball for four years and earned a coaches' award for her hard work and team spirit. Along with excelling as a Spartan Athlete, Gabrielle also participated in multiple school programs. She was a member of the National Honor Society and was their Relay for Life team captain. Gabrielle was also an active member of the Spartan Mentor program and Interact. She was a member of the Sparta Relay for Life committee and a member of Assumption BVM Church. She will be attending Northwood University in the fall in a specialized degree program for a Master's in Accounting.



STEPHANIE ANDERSON, Salutatorian, daughter of Patty and the late Scott Anderson, has had a high school career full of volunteering, sports, and educational achievements. She volunteered as a Rocket Cheer Coach, at Habitat for Humanity and as a tutor for her fellow classmates. She also co-founded Blankets for Hope in the spring of 2011. Stephanie has been a member of Student Council as the Treasury Executive for two years and the Appreciation Executive for one year. The National Honor Society also benefitted from her two years as a Little Spartans' Night Executive. She plans on attending Calvin College with a major in Biochemistry, minor in Spanish. She is currently registered for a summer internship there, studying alternative fuel.



KENDRA BURMEISTER, daughter of Kurt and Amy Burmeister, was a part of the National Honor Society and the Spartan Mentor/Tutor Program for two years, serving as secretary of NHS for one year. She also participated in the Youth Advisory Committee, Varsity Tennis, and the Equestrian Team for all four years at Sparta High School. Kendra was a member of the Sparta United Methodist Church and Youth Group, where she participated in three mission trips and other various activities to help the community. She was also a 4-H member for the Kent County Youth Fair while attending Sparta. Kendra will be attending Calvin College this fall. She plans to focus on becoming a Speech-Language Pathologist.



BETHANY HART, daughter of Heidi and Michael Hart, was an example of a student actively exuding the Spartan Values on a daily basis. Her academic involvement and achievement was important to her. She was involved in National Honor Society as a senior, as well as Interact, where she embraced helping her community in various forms of volunteer work. She enjoyed theater and performed in many of the Sparta community plays and musicals during her four years. She was a dedicated member of Plainfield Christian Church. Bethany plans on majoring in professional writing at Spring Arbor University next fall. In regard to career plans, ultimately, Bethany would like to serve as an editor.



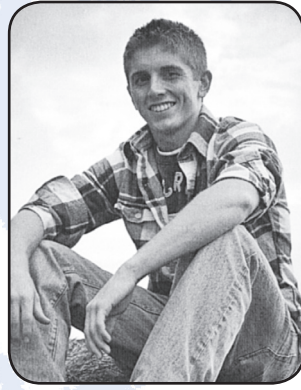
SOPHIE ANNE JANTZ, daughter of Steven and Lori Jantz, was an active part of Sparta High School. Sophie was the Class President, served on the Athletic Council, and was the Historian for the National Honor Society. Sophie was also a Varsity Tennis player. Outside of the school, Sophie played the French horn in the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony and participated in the Wind Ensemble at the Blue Lake International Competition. She was a member of the Sparta United Methodist Church. Sophie was also a Teen Volunteer at the John Ball Zoo. She recently attended the 2010 Life Leadership Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma through the Sparta Rotary. Sophie plans to attend the University of Michigan this coming fall to study Economics and Pre-Law.



BRADY MCINNIS, son of Lori and Joe McInnis, completed high school with a 4.06 GPA. Brady participated in varsity football and National Honor Society. Brady took part in Feeding America, highway road clean up, Sparta Relay for Life Committee, and was employed at Rosie's Diner. Currently, he is working hard at the Tractor Supply Company. Brady particularly embraced meals to the community on Christmas Eve at Rosie's with a positive attitude and always enjoys investing in others. Brady plans to attend Western Michigan University next year. After he has earned his undergraduate degree, Brady hopes to attend Lee's Honors College, which can springboard him into his career: Aeronautical Engineering.



ANNEMARIE LYNN MOMBER daughter of Richard and Marilyn Momber, has been involved in many different student organizations and sports while attending Sparta High School. Soccer and volleyball were her athletic passions, but she was much more than an athlete. She embraced and enjoyed volunteering for St. Anthony of Padua Church in Grand Rapids while completing her academic requirements. AnneMarie was a member of the National Honor Society as well, contributing as a faithful committee member. She plans on attending Grand Valley State University next year to major in biomedical sciences. After completing her college requirements and obtaining her certifications, AnneMarie's career goal is to become a physician's assistant.



DAN NORMAN, JR., son of Dan Sr. and Dawn, a student who demonstrated his leadership abilities by serving faithfully as the National Honor Society President his senior year. He invested time in events that helped others in his school and community. Relay for Life was one event that he was passionate about and the Leukemia Foundation was one organization he consistently supported with his time, effort, and attitude. He was well-known for his hospitality and fun-loving spirit working as a cook at Rosie's Diner and currently works for the Tractor Supply Company. Dan earned an Air Force Scholarship, which requires four full years of service. He will initially attend Central Michigan University and then continue his officer training.



CAITLIN RITTERSDORF, son of Dan and Sue Rittersdorf, was involved in lyrical and musical activities, along with her academic and community efforts. She served faithfully in the SHS band during her high school years and studied piano, attending private, lessons outside the scheduled school day. In 2011 she was a vital part of the Sparta Community Play Orchestra. Caitlin was an energetic member of the National Honor Society as well, who always wanted to make a difference. She also attended faithfully at Plainfield Christian Church, participating in church activities during her high school years. Next fall, Caitlin plans on attending Johnson University in Knoxville, Tennessee and majoring in Counseling.



KAYLA TOWERS, daughter of Troy and Rebecca Towers and Kim and John Holliday, participated in SHS drama, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, and Varsity Bowling. Kayla was also active in Marching Band where she was the drum major, section leader, and served on the uniform committee. She was a member of National Honor Society and was a student mentor. Kayla was a part of many non-school activities, such as Community Pep Band, youth group, discipleship group, Plainfield Christian choir, and a volunteer group at Guiding Light Mission. She plans on attending Johnson University in Knoxville, Tennessee to pursue degrees in Elementary Education and Bible. Kayla would like to become an elementary educator and spend time teaching abroad.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL 2011 GRADUATES!

On behalf of the Board of Education and the staff of the Sparta Area Schools, we wish the Class of 2011 graduates the best of luck in all of their future plans. Each year brings us to this milestone for members of another senior class. Graduates of 2011 should take a great deal of pride in their accomplishments which will serve them well as they pursue of their goals.

Michigan Prepares for Significant Changes in MEAP and MME Proficiency Scores

Over the past year there has been much media coverage pertaining to upcoming changes in the MEAP (Michigan Educational Assessment Program) and the MME (Michigan Merit Exam) proficiency scores. In fact, MEAP and MME scores will drop significantly for every school in the state of Michigan. The reason the score will dramatically change is the state is to raise the “cut scores” or levels of performance to obtain a satisfactory rating.

MEAP and MME Tests use a 4 tier proficiency rating scale. Scores are basically determined by the number of correct answers on a particular assessment. Levels 1 (advanced) and 2 (proficient) are considered mastery or proficient, while levels 3 (partially proficient) and 4 (non-proficient) are considered non-mastery or not proficient. The cut scores used to determine proficiency ratings change every year based upon the students’ performance. As a result, the state has long been under scrutiny by experts in the field of assessment for multiple reasons:

- students are often considered proficient with less than 50 % accuracy (in some cases as low as 33%)
- huge discrepancies exist between the NAEP (National Assessments of Academic Progress) and the MEAP

Since the Michigan assessments are based upon the grade and course level content expectations, many critics share the belief the ratings are inflated and do not truly reflect the levels of MASTERY expected of our students. To be clear, the MEAP and MME tested items originate from skills and concepts expected to be taught and mastered by the students prior to the test. An example would be the 4th grade math tested items with-in the MEAP come from 3rd grade content expectations taught in the prior year.

Perhaps the most compelling reason the state will adjust the proficiency rankings is the MEAP/MME current proficiency levels show little to no correlation to ACT scores or what is known as the College and Career Readiness Standards. In other words, a student may be considered proficient by the MEAP/MME, but do not appear to have the basic competencies expected for the transition to college or the workplace.

This past year, the State Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Along with almost every other state, Michigan is transitioning to the Common Core over the next two years with new assessments to begin in the 2013-14 school year. These standards increase the level of skills and knowledge expected of our students. The CCSS are nationally and internationally vetted, meaning they have been independently reviewed and benchmarked, and have been determined to incorporate the best practices and research from across the nation and the world. The bottom line: to ensure all students are prepared for all entry-level academic colleges and the global economic workplace.

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. 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.

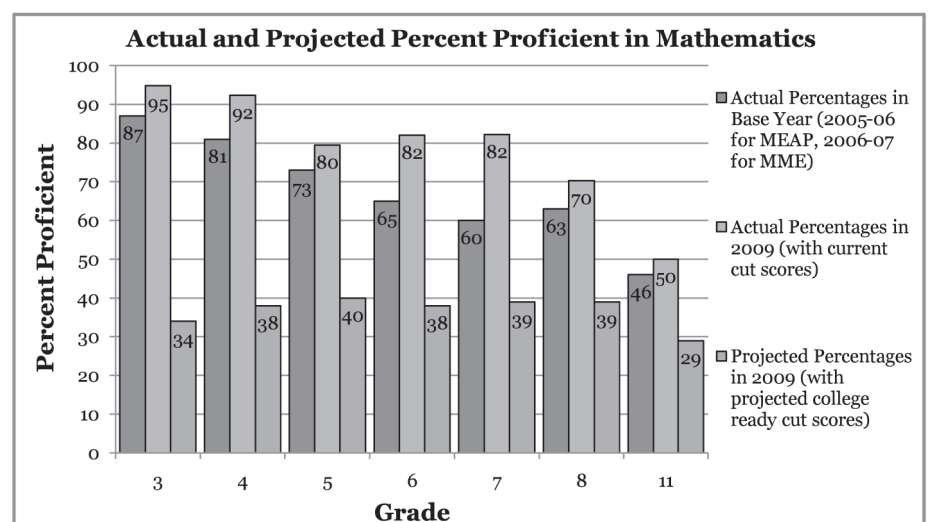
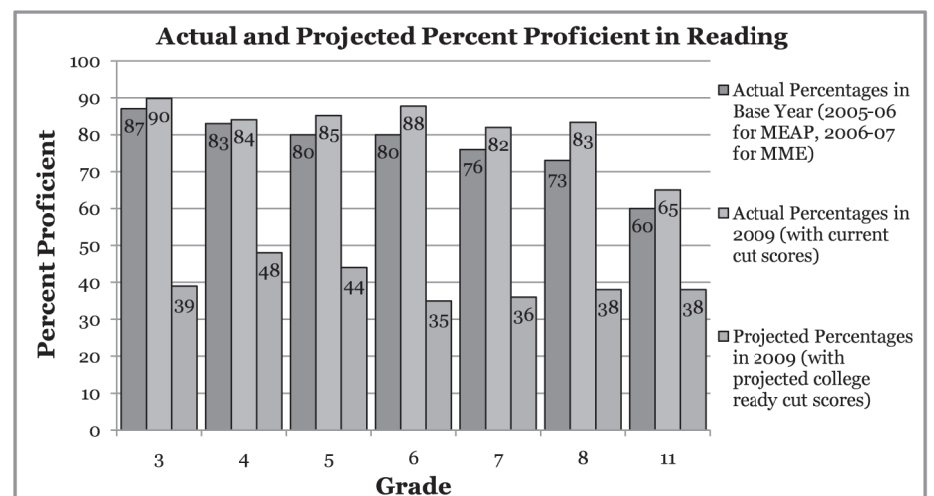
Deadlines to submit information:

August 2, 2011 issuedue June 22

In a nutshell, our state officials decided it is best to raise the bar by increasing the level of performance in order for students to be considered Proficient on the MEAP and MME. The objective is to have student scores on Michigan assessments better reflect the expectations of the Common Core State Standards. At the right are two charts of actual reading and math percentages of proficiency using aggregate data from schools in Kent County, and projected comparisons using the expected changes in cut scores.

It is important to realize that all schools in Michigan will show dramatic decreases in test scores next year. Even though Sparta students consistently outperform their county and state cohorts, we too will not avoid this reality. Our students’ scores on the MEAP and MME will look very different next year.

The move to the Common Core State Standards is indeed setting a new stage for US education. The standards outline the skills and knowledge expected of students to be considered college-ready and ultimately ready for successful transition to the global-economic workplace in the 21st century. There are to be many adjustments and changes during the initial transition. Some of these adjustments may be difficult to accept initially, yet the intent is right for our kids. There’s really no destination in continuous improvement.....just keep improving, but communication is essential along the way



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.

School Safety: A Community Effort

By Mark Kasmer, Assistant Superintendent

I attended the Homeland Security Conference on May 4, 2011 in Grand Rapids. We were reminded about the critical principles of school safety. Sparta Areas Schools has a long history of making school safety a priority and I left the sessions feeling pretty good about our Safety Response Program here in Sparta. During the latter part of the day, we were told that our final sessions were cancelled and Rudi Guliani, former Mayor of New York City, was to give the keynote address to all the participants. He was actually scheduled to present the following day, but an apparent unexpected change in his schedule prompted this change. Consequently, his address to the members came a day earlier than expected. Most of the members attending the conference were police, fire and security officers and officials. On this particular day of the multi-day conference, school officials were purposefully invited, as many of the sessions related to school and community safety and security. This was a rather large conference with well over 5,000 people in attendance.

During the presentation, by Mr. Giuliani, he spoke about the need for preparedness and planning and referenced some of the activities he engaged in as Mayor of NYC. Speaking about 9/11, he made a point to assure we all understood that while we cannot possibly plan for everything, the skills, understandings and behaviors practiced and learned during planning and preparation stages are vital to the success in all crisis and safety response events. He also referenced the need for a strong and defined command and leadership structure. The examples he used were simply irrefutable as he related them to the most horrific event of our country's history. Mr. Giuliani then spoke about community; the need for ALL of us to be active and vigilant members of our Homeland Security. Perhaps the most compelling portions of the address were the numerous examples of everyday citizens sharing information with authorities because something was not right, and how these events lead authorities to foil unbelievable plots against innocent and un-expecting citizens in our country.

As members of the Sparta Schools Educational Community, we are all called to be part of a safe and secure community. All of us can and should have a role in the security of our schools. The safety and welfare of our students must be priority one in our schools. While the likelihood of events similar to those which happened in Columbine or New York City is slim here in Sparta, however, the possibilities of tragic and horrific events are real. Unfortunately and whether we like it or not, schools have become places to target by certain groups of predators. We must face this reality as a community by always looking out for one another. The keys.... BE WATCHFUL and COMMUNICATE.

If any of us see or hear about activities which may jeopardize the safety and welfare of members in our educational community, we are asking you to report what is seen and or heard to school officials or to the appropriate officials connected with the event in question. If you observe adults taking pictures around the perimeter or entrances of the schools, please let the school officials know. If you overhear students engaging in discussions which are perceived as a threat to harm or injure others, please communicate with the school officials. If you see other adults observing or watching students from a distance, or you have concern about a vehicle (unattended or attended), please share your concerns with us. If you see any packages or items designed to transport materials which look out of place or have a suspicious nature to them, please contact the schools with your concern.

To continue a list of possible scenarios, or to state reasons why to communicate observed suspicious activity to authorities could easily become perceived as too much, over-dramatizing or unnecessary. There are simply too many potential crisis and tragedies which have been avoided by early detection and intervention for us to avoid this issue. While the landscape of the world is changing, we all must do our best to be watchful and aware of our surroundings and communicate suspicious activity to authorities. The welfare and safety of members within our educational community is priority one. Please participate and engage in supporting the safety of our schools.

Preschool & Childcare Opportunities at Sparta

Preschool Service Calendar follows the District School Year Calendar

All preschool programming in Sparta follows the Great Start Readiness Program Guidelines. This model is based upon what is known as the High Scope Philosophy. High Scope is a developmentally appropriate approach to learning combining direct instruction with orchestrated play. High Scope uses specific intended learning outcomes from Creative Curriculum and the State of Michigan Preschool Standards and Expectations.

Tuition Preschool

Sparta Area Schools operates a three and four year old preschool class. Class size is limited. Classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis according to the enrollment date. A \$30 non-refundable fee is due at the time of enrollment. The fee is \$12.00 per session which meets for three, 2.5 hours per day for three year olds and four days a week, 3 hours per day for four year olds. Students will attend preschool at White Early Childhood Center. Wrap around care is also available for both tuition preschool programs.

Eligibility:

- Child must be at least three years old but not yet five years old by December 1, 2011.
- Child must be three years old by December 1, 2011 to attend the three-year-old class.
- Child must be four years old by December 1, 2011 to attend the four-year-old class.
- Child must be toilet trained.
- District residents will receive first priority.
- Parents must provide transportation.
- Proof of immunization and a birth certificate must be presented before school starts.
- No child may enter the program unless all necessary documents are completed.

Preschool with Childcare for children ages 3 and 4 years old

This program is offered throughout the calendar year including summers (provided there are enough children enrolled during the summer). Childcare will be open Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. except for major holidays, Thanksgiving recess and Christmas recess (dates to be determined). The program will remain open on snow days. Children must be toilet trained. Breakfast and nutritious snacks will be provided. Children must bring a sack lunch. Children may start attending at 2 years, 6 months as long as they are potty trained.

The fee is \$130 per week (\$26 per day). A \$30 non-refundable fee is due at enrollment. One enrollment fee will be charged per year.

This program is housed at White Early Childhood Center.

Great Start Readiness Preschool

Now accepting applications for the 2011-2012 school year. This program is free to children residing in the Sparta School district who will be 4 years of age by December 1, 2011. Students must meet two of twenty-five eligibility requirements (*you need not be of low income*). Classes meet Monday through Thursday in part day sessions. Openings are limited; call 887-8218 for more information and for an application.

Students will attend readiness preschool at Ridgeview Elementary.

Young 5's and Kindergarten Extended Childcare Services

Sparta Schools offers childcare during the school day from 7:55 am-3:20 pm at Ridgeview Elementary with extended day services (6:30 am-8:00 am and 3:15 pm-6:00 pm) provided at Appleview Elementary. Transportation to and from the extended day services will be provided by the district.

The fee is \$105 per week (\$21 per day). A \$30 non-refundable fee is due at the time of enrollment. Breakfast and nutritious snacks will be provided. Children must bring a sack lunch.

This program will be housed at Ridgeview Elementary.

Before & After School Care for Students in Grades Young 5's, K-5

"The Open Door" Before and After School Care program is open from 6:30 - 8:00 am and 3:00-6:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Fee per session is \$5 for mornings and \$9.50 for afternoons. A \$30 non refundable fee is due at the time of enrollment. The program will be open daily, including snow days, no school days, Christmas recess (dates to be determined) and Spring Break. The center will be closed major holidays and Thanksgiving recess.

Summer care may also be provided depending on the number of students enrolled.

**Questions for any of the programs listed above,
call Sparta Community Education, 887-7321.**



SPARTA PRESCHOOL NEWS

Summer Hours at White Early Childhood Center & Sparta Community Education

June 13 - August 19Monday -Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Office will be closed Fridays during the summer



Learning in the Rain

Students in Ms. Wolfe and Mrs. Lashuay's classes have enjoyed the chance to get outside and play in the rain. With matching rain boots and yellow umbrellas that are the perfect size for them, students ventured out to learn about the world and weather around them in a whole new way.

All the kids agreed, the best part of the nature walk adventures was walking and splashing in the mud puddles with their boots.

Bright Beginnings Parents as Teachers

Do you have children between the ages of birth and kindergarten?
Are you interested in?

- Helping to prepare your child for academic and lifelong success
- Meeting families with children the same ages as your children
- Learning more about your child's development
- Joining age appropriate play groups

Bright Beginnings Parents as Teachers is a free parent education and family support program designed to empower ALL parents to give their children the best possible start in life. Bright Beginnings provides developmental information for children ages birth to five and suggests learning opportunities to encourage language, intellectual, physical and social/emotional growth.

Bright Beginnings offers:

Personal visits, Child Development Information, Play Groups, Parent Meetings, Developmental Screening and Resource Networking

Summer Playgroup Dates

Location: White Early Childhood Center
1655 - 12 Mile Rd., Sparta

Date: June 3, July 13, and August 17, 2011

Time: 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Wahlfield Park

6811 Alpine Ave. Comstock Park

Date: June 23, July 14, and August 18, 2011

Time: 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

For more information, please contact: Wendy Bronkema 889-3687
or visit our website: www.kentisd.org/brightbeginning



SPARTA RIDGEVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Summer Office Hours at Ridgeview

June 13-30.....Monday -Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
(closed for lunch - noon to 1:00 p.m)
Office will be closed the month of July and Fridays during the summer



Austin Averill and Jacob Warwick from Miss Kieft's Young 5's class discover how to make giant bubbles!

A Day in May Filled with Educational Play!

By Sarah Kieft and Michelle Barber

On Wednesday, May 4th Ridgeview Elementary's Young 5's, Kindergarten, and T-1 classes headed to the city for a field trip to the Grand Rapids Children's Museum. The Grand Rapids Children's Museum is a place where young children can learn about the world around them by engaging in a kid-friendly, interactive, hands-on environment. At the museum our students learned about geometry as they played in Izzy's House of Shapes, pretended to be construction workers at the Excavation Station, and found out what it's like to be a farmer on Aunt Daisy's Farm! The students also explored permanent exhibits such as the grocery store, the bank, the bubble area, the mirror area, and more! A total of 11 classes went on this fun field trip that was made possible by a generous grant called the Save a Heart Scholarship.



Reading Rocks!

First grade celebrated Reading Month by partner reading in the hallway. Each first grade classroom dropped everything to read with friends from another room. They read their guided reading books to each other as well as their published stories from Writing Workshop. Students enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate their stories and to enjoy students from another classroom.



Summer Office Hours at Appleview

June 13-30 Monday -Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
(closed for lunch - noon to 1:00 p.m.)

Office will be closed the month of July and Fridays during the summer.

For more information about upcoming events, visit www.spartaschools.org, click on your school, then "calendar" to see the district wide calendar.



Girls on the Run with their new "New Balance" shoes

Girls On The Run

Girls on the Run® is a life-changing, non-profit program for girls in 3rd through 5th grade. Their mission is to educate and prepare girls for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living. They accomplish this by combining training for a 5K (3.1 miles) running event with healthy living education. This year's 5K run took place on May 21, at East Kentwood High School.

Jenna Rykse, a third grade teacher, became aware of this program through her continuing education and with the support of some Appleview parents was able to initiate a local Sparta Girls on the Run chapter.

This season's group consisted of 15 girls from Appleview Elementary: Grace DeLong, Daisy Gomez, Alexis Driscoll, Madelyn Matulis, Kiara Lane, Claire McDougal, Shaylee TerHaar, Lara Hazzard, Maizy Gleason, Lilly Anderson, Katie Perry, Alexandria Smith-Tompkins, Camryn Murdock, Emily Steiner and Kendall Proctor. Claire McDougal, a fourth grader at Appleview, loves going to Girls on the Run. "It is so much fun! We get to meet new people and talk about what is going on in our lives. We also get to learn about eating healthier. It was so cool that each girl received a new pair of running shoes." The shoes were supplied by New Balance, one of the national sponsors.

The program promotes self-esteem and strong values through life skills development, health education, mentoring and physical training. The active collaboration with girls and their parents, schools, volunteers and community helps make this happen. Appleview is very excited about continuing with this program in future! For more information about Girls on the Run, go to www.kcgotr.org.

Johnny Appleseed & Miss Apple Blossom

5th Graders are invited to submit a short essay to win the chance to become a representative of Sparta! Any 5th grade student is eligible! Essay requirements found at www.spartachamber.com or by calling 616-887-2454.



Mrs. Hall with the 3rd grade Young Authors.



Mrs. Singleton with the 4th grade Young Authors.

Honoring Our Writers

By Robin Hall

On Thursday, April 28, 42 third, fourth & fifth grade students from Appleview Elementary attended the 2011 Young Authors Festival at Calvin College. These authors spent many hours creating, revising, editing and publishing fiction stories that they highlighted at the conference.

Coordinators for this conference were: Mrs. Robin Hall, 3rd Grade, Mrs. Tammy Singleton, 4th grade, and Mrs. Tara Dzirbowicz, 5th grade. The students spent their time at Calvin College enjoying an Improv presentation from Calvin College students, sharing their published stories with other students from around Kent County and listening to award winning author Pam Munoz Ryan and Illustrator C.B. Lewis. The funds for this wonderful endeavor were provided by the Sparta PTC. What a fabulous way to highlight our Young Authors!



Mrs. Dzirbowicz with the 5th grade Young Authors.



SPARTA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Summer Office Hours at the Middle School

June 13-30.....Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Office will be closed the month of July and Fridays during the summer.

For more information about upcoming events, visit www.spartaschools.org, click on your school, then "calendar" to see the district wide calendar.



8th grade: Robbie McKinney and Grace Tarala



7th grade: Sydney Holland, Jonathan Tuinstra and Jacob Boylan

Relay for Life "A Cure Around the World"

Middle School students graciously gave up their lunches, homework days in advisory, and their own personal time at home to create banners for Relay for Life. The banners were designed according to the theme "A Cure Around the World". The banners were proudly displayed at this year's kick-off event at the Church of the Nazarene in Sparta during the month of February. The following students participated in the creation of these beautiful banners: 8th graders, Robbie McKinney, Grace Tarala, Alissa VanderVeen and Meagan VanMalsen; 7th graders, Sydney Holland, Jonathan Tuinstra and Jacob Boylan.

Meet in the Middle Parent Group News

The winner of the "Night Out At McDonald's" held on Tuesday April 19th was RIDGEVIEW ELEMENTARY. We want to congratulate them for having the most families represented.

We want to thank the principals, teachers and all the parents who took time out to either help or come to enjoy a relaxing evening with their families.

We also want to thank McDonald's for hosting the fundraiser this year and look forward to next year.

Congratulations Samantha Saenz!



Samantha Saenz, an 8th grade student, won third place in a contest sponsored by *Above the Influence*, a project urging teens to stay drug free. A presentation was given by a representative from the Kent County Health Department to her Health class and students were invited to enter the contest. Other students also became involved in the contest and the *Above the Influence* group.

Sparta Middle School Counselors' Corner

Karyll Russell and Kathleen Shook, Counselors

IT'S ENROLLMENT TIME!!!!

The school year is nearing its end and our counseling offices are quite busy. We are both working to prepare for next year and the transitions of 5th graders to our building and 8th graders to the high school. This is an exciting (and sometimes scary) time for students, staff, and families alike. We encourage you to call us with any questions or concerns that arise throughout these changes. As always, students wishing to meet with us can complete a request slip in the main office and deposit it in "the box". These requests are confidential.

If you are new to Sparta Schools or considering a transition to our building, we welcome the opportunity to meet you and your student. As part of the enrollment process, we ask parents/guardians to schedule a meeting time with us so that we can discuss the learning needs of your student, provide a building tour, and answer any questions you have. Please contact our office (616) 887-8211 to schedule an enrollment meeting with us before the school year comes to an end and WELCOME TO SPARTA!!!



Ga-Ga Ball Pits

Recently Sparta Middle School added Ga-Ga Ball pits outside for students to use during recess. Ga-Ga Ball is a form of dodgeball that students learned to play at 6th Grade camp. Students' excitement for the game led middle school parent, Matt McCallum, to provide the brackets to build the pits. Mr. McCallum, Joel Stoner, Sparta Middle School Principal, and two seventh grade students, Julian McCallum (*pictured*) and Kyle Salisbury, spent a Saturday afternoon building two pits.



SPARTA MIDDLE SCHOOL continued

Katie Hamel named 2010 Junior Cyclist of the Year



Katie Hamel, an 8th grader at Sparta Middle School received the 2010 Steve "ICEMAN" Brown Junior Cyclist of the Year Award, along with a \$1,000.00 Scholarship, presented by the Michigan Youth Cycling Scholarship Program. She was also awarded a trophy, which will be on display for the year at her bike shop sponsor, Village Bike Shop in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

When asked how she'll be a good ambassador for the organization, she said that she helps the newer kids on the team by teaching them the tips and tricks of riding. She then added that she would like to encourage anyone interested in getting into the sport to join Michigan Youth Cycling, because it's a great way to make friends and have fun.

Katie plans to work hard for the 2011 racing season. Great job Katie!

For more information about youth cycling visit www.michiganyouthcycling.org

2010-2011 Sparta Middle School Honor Roll 2nd Trimester

6th Grade

Kathryn Anderson
Hayden Barr
Taylor Barr
Edward Battle
Justin Bradford
Kirk Brown
Grace Buchanan
Bradley Bulmer
Caleb Buren
Mariah Burnham
Mitchell Byrne
Yazan Chabti
Monica Chavez
Wayne Chen
Andrew David
Andrew Davis
Sky Davis
Bridgette Devine
Lydia Dupont
Kamryn Eluskie
Brendon Engle
Teegan Galdeen
Matthew Gorkowski
Noah Graham
Emma Gray
Hannelore Green
Nicholas Hanson
Cody Havens
Elizabeth Hawley
Molly Hill
Clarissa Hubert
Vanessa Hubert
Sarah Hudson
Caitlyn Hume
Amanda Hurst
Kristian Hurtado
Victoria Hyde
Jacob Imkamp
Dylan Jackson

Jenna Johnson
Jeremy Johnson
Quinn Johnson
Mya Kaliniak
Braden Kilpatrick
Claudia Knepper
Alexandria Kober
Megan Kober
Brandon Krutsch
Riley Kutzli
Olivia Lawrence
Morgan Marble
Jesus Martinez
Joanna Martinez-Velazquez
Lysle Mattson
Matthew Mauer
Gadrielle McColgan
Katelyn McCormick
Samantha McGuirl
Molly Mills
Jacob Molhoek
Branson Moore
Norma Moreno
Chloe Noffke
Marissa Noorman
Victor Odren
Ryan Oldenburg
Emily Padilla
Adam Parker
Courtney Perez
Justin Pifer
Kyle Pinckney
Jessica Poirier
Kyle Poling
Samantha Priest
Charlie Regeczi
Sarah Reiter
Nathan Robbins
Mark Ruark
Nathaniel Rumlmer

McKenna Schafer
Brayden Scheiwe
Madison Schwab
Decklyn Scott
Steven Sevans
Brandon Shaw
Alec Sheneman
Kiershteon Sherman
Abigail Slaktowski
Trenton Smith
Trisha Snyder
Caleb Soules
Amber Stanuilis
Robert Stephens
Madison Strain
Jalyn Stuart
Connor Sullivan
Stephanie Swathwood
Maeve Tarala
Colton VanderLeest
Andrew VanderWall
Jasmyn Vannatter
Brianna Wagner
Christopher Westers
Gage Wildfong
Benjamin Willcox
Julia Willer
Ryan Wooten
Allyson Wright
Natalie Wright
Tara Wudkewych
David Yeck

7th Grade

Cassie Ackerman-Smith
Carley Andrews
Bailey Armock
Derek Austin
Dylan Avellaneda
Jesse Berdan

Skylar Berenbrock
Trevor Bloom,
Amber Boyce
Troy Braspeninx
Jacob Brown
Jason Caniff
Amber Chapman
Erik Christafferson
Nokomis Clarey-Schultz
Australyah Coleman
Madeline Coe
Caitlin Cowdrey
Jared Coyle
Nicholas Creveling
Aleisha Dickman
Michael Garza
Alexis Gerard
Jared Gunhus
Jacob Gurd
Kendra Hawley
Alexis Heimbaugh
Alexis Herrmann
Mollie Hill
Sydney Holland
Quinten Holman
Parker Hubert
Tristan Hull
Carley Hume
Alexis Jendrasiak
Olivia Kane
Devon Kleinheksel
Victoria Kovalenko
Kassidi Krzykwa
Emma Lemke
Nichole Longcore
Dakota Marble
Alexandria Marsman
Marie Martinek
Anavel Martinez
Alexandria McKinley

Meghan McMurphy
Samuel Medley
Lizzy Miedzielec
Whitney Miller
Sarah Monterusso
Madison Myers
Kennedy Noel
Mackenzie Olmstead
Alexander Parris
Quinn Patrick
Jenyfer Pegg
Victor Perez
Makayla Popma
Noe Puga
Sydney Randle
Breydon Razmus
Joel Rees
Jacob Richmond
Kelly Ring
Ryan Rittersdorf
Morgan Rowley
Josie Rozeveld
Stephen Sargent
Renn Schipper
Jason Shanks
Vanessa Simons
Jared Smith,
Hannah Spedoske
Kailey Spetoskey
Tawnie Swanberg
Tiffany Tasma
Angela Taylor
Andrew Thome
Emily Tilli
Jonathan Tuinstra
Alanna Turnquist
Angela Verdugo
Brianna Wahlfield
Anna Wheeler
Whitney Wildman

Kassidy Winchester
Zachary Wiseman
Erin Wooten
Ryan Wudkewych
Brandon Young

8th Grade

Brooke Adams
Michael Ameling
Skylar Anderson
Rachel Brott
Abigail Brown
Authur Brown
Justin Brown
Francesca Buchanan
Emily Byers
Joshua Carlisle
Deanna Clum
Wyatt Cornett
James Dufort
Brianna George
Breanna Gray
Colton Groters
Katherine Hamel
Danielle Hamell
Haley Harbin
Bethanie Harrington
Jessica Hoover
Alyssa Hulst
Erica Humphreys
Mackenzie Kerkstra
Cole Klein
Tori Klenk
Raymond Koren
Trey Lavish
Brianna Lewis
Abby Maki
Emily Maltman
Abbie Marlette
Kyle May

Mary McHugh
Christopher Miller
Amber Mitchel
Amy Momber
Rebecca Nalley
Jessica Noorman
Cole Orlikowski
Angelica Orozco
Nicholas Parris
Colin Quackenbush
Anneliese Rademacher
Tucker Rader
Shanna Rasch
Jarilyn Regeczi
Sarah Richmond
Nathan Ring
Ashley Roberts
Matthew Roberts
Karlee Robinson
Bradley Ronning
Kolton Shaw,
Jacob Shivers
Carter Shupe
Jeana Sixbury
Alyssa Stearns
Cody Stebbins
Grace Li Tarala
Andrea Taylor
Chloe Teliczan
Brittney TerBeek
Lyssa Thoms
Meagan VanMalsen
Brooklyn Ward
Taylor Ward
Hannah Wheeler
Danielle Wilde
Samantha Willetts

SPARTA EDUCATION FOUNDATION



Thank You Retro-Bowl 2011 Sponsors

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SPARTA TIRE & AUTOMOTIVE
SPLIT ENDS
TASTY TREAT
THE BAKERY

THE CLUB
WESCO



Another fun and successful year!



High School Summer Office Hours

June 13 - August 25 Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
(closed for lunch - noon to 1:00 p.m.)
Office will be closed Fridays during the summer.

For more information about upcoming events, visit www.spartaschools.org, click on your school, then "calendar" to see the district wide calendar.



Mrs. Ellen Ronning Makes a Difference

By Emma Kauffman

Mrs. Ronning has been teaching at Sparta High for 19 years. This semester she taught Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, and Geometry. "Ever since I was maybe 10 years old, I just knew it was what I wanted to do," she said. Her students appreciate her down to earth style of teaching, and the fact that the majority of work is done in class, not sent home. She is originally from Sterling Heights, but moved to Coopersville with her family when she was 10. Ronning has two children: Adam, 17 and Brad, 14, with her husband Tim. In her spare time she enjoys reading and watching movies. "Old movies, young movies, any type of movie, really," Ronning said. She dreams of traveling once she retires, and is especially interested in revisiting Europe, where she went when she was 16. Mrs. Ronning's advice for Sparta high school students: "Do your best always, and believe that you can achieve." Mrs. Ronning has a way of staying the enigma we all know she is. Enigma or no, Mrs. Ronning is an excellent teacher, and a valuable part of the staff at Sparta High.



Children's Museum Ideal Venue for Prom

Phil Lovell and Autumn Rath were honored on Saturday, April 30th to receive their crowns as king and queen of the Sparta High School Prom. "The selections were fitting. I've had both of them in class and think they are both good picks," math teacher and chaperone Mrs. Jurek said. It was a night of dancing and togetherness, reinforcing the core values the seniors had exhibited for their four years of high school. The carnival theme was enhanced by the cotton candy machine, popcorn, exhibits, games, and open-air feel that led to the students wandering through the halls of the museum. "They experienced the space of the museum, moving all throughout the exhibits. They seemed to really enjoy the cotton candy machine," Ms. Jurek said. The Class of 2012 with their advisors (Mrs. Converse, Mrs. Ronning, and Ms. Teitsma) truly put on the "greatest show on earth" for the seniors. It was a proper send off for four years of hard work, dedication, and passion.



Taming of The Shrew: Goodbye, Seniors

By Jake Abbott

Sparta High School's production of *Taming of the Shrew* came to a close on Saturday night, April 23rd, with a resonating adaptation of the class play set in the 1960's. SHS Drama fans had to say "goodbye" to some veterans of the program. The list of seniors went as follows: Grace Kelly (*Kate*), Karin Bitely (*Barbra*), Steph Ponne (*Widow*), Tyler Droski (*Grumio*), John Cummings (*Harry*), Kyle Daughtery (*Hippie*), Ashley Sutterfield (*Phyllis/Hippie*), Prissy Gonzalez (*Hostess*), David Shangle (*Petruchio*), and Sarah Studt (*Bianca*). Some were in more plays than others, but they all still made an impact. "I don't want to think about it. The plays are a time where everyone grows closer, and you always meet new friends. The complicated test was a huge deal, but the kids went at it head-on which was very encouraging," Director Marolf said. There were many difficult aspects of this production, but the cast worked as a team to make it the best show in town. "It was definitely a success," Marolf said. All the effort and time that was put into the show really became "worth it" once those players were out on the stage. The outstanding veterans that are exiting stage left have made their mark on the drama program.

Former Spartan Graduate Joe Vanderhyde Teaches Existentialism

By Alex Woolworth

Joe Vanderhyde, a graduate of Sparta High School, visited Mr. Kleyn's World Perspectives class on Friday, April 15. Joe has spent the past few years teaching English classes in Thailand. Joe's mother is a 4th grade teacher at Ridgeview. He studied English and philosophy at Grand Valley State University, and at Kansas State University. He came to the World Perspectives class to talk about existentialism, which is the emphasis on the importance of the individual's attempt to create meaning in life. "Joe Vanderhyde taught us that existentialists try to embrace the mystery of life without demanding logical explanations for our existence," Mr. Kleyn said. Our two main areas of thought are the ones we have in our Greek tradition of a need for logic and explanations and our Christian influence that asks that we accept things on faith—without demanding proof and reasoning. Existentialists try to find a middle road between our Greek-inherited need for explanations and our Christian heritage of unquestioning obedience. Existentialists are on quest for meaning that is not limited by that which we can deconstruct or explain. They want each human to celebrate individual uniqueness and make meaningful choices.

2011 Yearbooks

2011 yearbooks are no longer for sale online. To reserve a copy get your \$60 to Mrs. VanDusen. The price will increase to \$65 in the fall and books will be sold first come - first served.



HIGH SCHOOL continued



Sparta Free Ford Test Drive

By Zach Leach

Saturday, April 16th, Kent City Ford and Sparta Area Schools teamed up for a chance to raise money for Sparta sports. For every test drive, Ford donated \$20 to SHS. It was a cold and rainy day but that didn't stop people from driving brand new Ford vehicles for free. There were 151 test drives taken that day for a total of \$3,020, which will be split three ways between the boys' and girls' basketball teams and the Sparta sports boosters. Fellow juniors, Lucas Marble and Zach Leach, helped to greet all the people who came. "It was freezing out there," junior, Lucas Marble said. "But, you know, it was good to see people, even people I didn't know came to support and care about our programs." This money will be a great help for the basketball program to purchase new basketballs, a shooting machine, jerseys, etc. If you or your parent participated in this event, we would like to thank you for your time and effort in helping our school!



Winter All-Conference, District, and State Student-Athletes

By Zach Leach

In the 2010/2011 winter sports season at Sparta High School there were many hard working athletes that received All-Conference, All District, or All State nominations.

- Bowling All-Conference, senior AJ Christafferson and sophomore Jacob Vashon. On the women's side for bowling was senior Karrienne Brown and sophomore Amber Force.
- All-Conference for Competitive Cheer, seniors Stephanie Anderson, Brittany George, and Kelsey Blystone. 1st team All-District cheer team was Stephanie Anderson and Brittany George. 2nd team All-District was Kelsey Blystone and senior Danielle Ogg. All-Region was Stephanie Anderson. 2nd team All-Region was Brittany George and Kelsey Blystone.
- Basketball All-Conference, junior Jill Steenwyk and honorable mention senior Karen Bacon. For boys was junior Zach Leach and honorable mention senior Kyle Fitzpatrick.
- All-Conference Wrestlers were juniors Nick Trimble and Dan Graham and senior Paul Dunneback. The Individual Regional Qualifiers were Dan Graham, Nick Trimble, Jesse Stamann, Kyle Rauser, James Rogers and Paul Dunneback. The Individual State Qualifiers were Dan Graham, Nick Trimble, and Paul Dunneback. Receiving an All-State Title was Nick Trimble.

Congratulations to all the hard working student-athletes on their accomplishments!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Sparta Town & Country Days July 13-17, 2011 Spartacular!

Kids Parade, Free Petting Zoo, Carnival & More!

Check out the complete detail listing at

www.spartafair.com

There's something for everyone, we'll see you at the Fair!

Free Concerts in Rogers Park

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

June 22 - August 31

For listing of events, visit

www.spartachamber.com

Downtown Sparta Farmers Market

June 1 – Sept. 28 from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.

73 N. Union Street

Calendar of weekly events at www.spartachamber.com

Accepts Bridge Cards, Credit Cards, Project Fresh

& Double Up Bucks!



Coming in August...

Sparta Education Foundation will be selling 2011-2012 calendars to help raise funds for the "extras for education". The full color calendar showcases student artwork and classroom pictures, plus important school and community dates. The calendars will be offered for \$10.00 each. Sales will start in August at the community farm market, school open houses, school buildings and at the village office. **You won't want to miss out!**

Sports Physicals

Students entering grades 6-12 in the fall

Spectrum Health Medical Group, Sparta Family Medicine will be doing Sports Physicals on June 7th at 5:30 pm. at their new building on 12-Mile Road and US-37. The cost is \$15.00 per child (cash or check payable to Sparta Family Medicine.) Students can pick up physical forms at the Athletic office in the high school.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

**CALL 887-7321
TO REGISTER
FOR CLASSES.**

YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS 2011

GIRLS' YOUTH VOLLEYBALL CAMP

For girls entering 4-6 grades in the fall.

Coach Tina Hill and staff will teach the basics of hitting and serving.

When: July 18 - 21 (Mon.-Thurs.)

Time: 10:00 a.m. - noon

Where: High School gym

Cost: \$40.00 (includes a camp t-shirt)

\$10.00 a day if unable to attend full session

For girls entering 7-8 grades in the fall.

When: July 18 - 21 (Mon.-Thurs.)

Time: 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Where: High School gym

Cost: \$40.00 (includes a camp t-shirt)

\$10.00 a day if unable to attend full session

BOYS' BASKETBALL CAMP

Please do not bring your own basketball and do not arrive more than 10 minutes early.

All camps will be held at the High School.

For boys entering grades 2-6 in the fall.

When: June 13 - 16 (Mon. - Thurs.)

Time: noon - 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$25.00 (includes a camp t-shirt)

\$30 after 6/1

For boys entering grades 7-9 in the fall.

When: June 13-15 (Mon. - Wed.)

Time: 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$15.00 (includes a t-shirt)

\$20 after 6/1

GIRLS' BASKETBALL CAMPS

For girls entering grades 2-6 in the fall.

When: June 13 - 16 (Mon. - Thurs.)

Where: High School Gym

Time: 10:00 a.m. - noon

Cost: \$25.00 (includes a camp t-shirt)

\$30 after 6/1

For girls entering 7th grade in the fall.

When: June 20 - 22 (Mon. - Wed.)

Where: Middle School Gym

Time: 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$15.00 (includes a camp t-shirt)

\$20 after 6/1

For girls entering 8th grade in the fall.

When: June 13 - 15 (Mon. - Wed.)

Where: Appleview Gym

Time: 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$15.00 (includes a camp t-shirt)

\$20 after 6/1

YOUTH GOLF SUMMER CAMP

Your child can learn all about golf! Whatever your child's skill level may be. With our individual based teaching method, they will improve! With each child on their own hitting mat, our instructors teach everything from grip, stance, and swing fundamentals to the basics of the long game (drivers and irons) and short game (pitching, chipping and putting). Your child will have fun while learning skills they can enjoy throughout their lives! All equipment, including the top of the line junior golf clubs and indoor foam golf balls, will be provided. In case of rain, classes will be held in Appleview gym.

When: July 25 - July 28 (Mon. - Thurs.)

Time: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Cost: \$45.00

YOUTH TENNIS CAMP

Students will be given basic instructions in ground-strokes, net play, service and scoring. The intermediate class will also learn strategies for competition. Competitive games will be held during the second week for all classes. A tennis racquet is required to participate. Instructors: Greg Busse, high school varsity boys and girls tennis coach since 1993, and Brenda Konkle.

For boys & girls ages 5-16

When: June 20 - 23 & July 27 - 30 (Mon. - Thurs.)

Where: Sparta Tennis Courts -
behind Appleview Elementary

Ages 5-10

Time: 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. or 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Cost: \$30.00

Ages 11-16

Time: Beginners 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Intermediates 11:00 - noon

Cost: \$30.00

Thank you for your participation in this year's sports camps. Monies collected helps to defer the cost of camps for high school students coaching in these summer programs.

2011 SUMMER YOUTH CAMP REGISTRATION FORM

Please return this completed registration form with a check made payable to: Sparta Area Schools

Mail to: Sparta Community Education, 1655 - 12 Mile Rd, Sparta 49345

Name: _____ Gr. _____

Name: _____ Gr. _____

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

What program(s) do you want to register for? _____

Boys/Girls Youth Basketball & Girls Youth Volleyball Camps Only

T-shirt Size: Youth S M L Adult S M L XL (circle one)
(6-8) (10-12) (14-16)

The applicant and parent agree that Sparta Area Schools and/or their staff, coaches, or employees will not be held responsible for any accidents or loss of personal property, however caused, and agrees to release Sparta Area Schools from all claims or damages which may arise as a result of such accidents or loss.

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

SUMMER LEGO ENGINEERING CLASSES (enrollment deadline July 25)

Junior Engineering 1 - Grades 1-3

Great hands-on learning and building. Students will creatively build and modify machines through basic engineering skills using our unique LEGO kits. Projects include devices, machines and vehicles. Concepts include basic engineering principles, simple machines, problem solving, teamwork and communication.

When: Aug. 8-11 (Mon. - Thurs.), 9:00 a.m. - noon

Where: Sparta's Ridgeview Elementary Cafeteria
560 W. Spartan Dr.

Cost: \$85.00 per student.

12 students min. enrollment, 16 students max. enrollment

Elementary Engineering - Grades 4-6

Great hands-on learning and building with LEGO! Students will creatively build and modify machines applying basic engineering principles and using our unique LEGO kits. Projects include machines, vehicles, devices and structures. Concepts learned include engineering principles, simple machines, forces in motion, problem-solving, innovation and collaboration.

When: Aug. 8-11 (Mon. - Thurs.), 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Where: Sparta's Ridgeview Elementary Cafeteria
560 W. Spartan Dr.

Cost: \$85.00 per student.

12 students min. enrollment, 22 students max. enrollment

Sparta All-Sports Summer Strength & Conditioning Program (SSC)

Goal: To help Sparta athletes improve, achieve higher success, and include all sports athletes.

How: Professional Sports Instructors (subject matter experts) will be conducting training sessions throughout the summer months for all Sparta Athletes entering grades 7th-12th.

Explanation: The Professional Sports Instructors will develop, manage and facilitate the training needs of each student athlete in the program. The program will develop correct training techniques and skills to help each individual Sparta student athlete improve. Success of the program will be achieved through encouraging participation by all sport student athletes in the structured, sports specific lifting programs, conditioning sessions, and open gym. The Professional Sports Instructors will work in cooperation with the goals and objectives of the all sports varsity coaching staff to provide consistency and continuity with the sports specific in-season and off-season training plans.

The Plan:

Strength Training (ST): Lifting 2 days a week, with focus on the core strength development with some sport specific exercises.

There will be a structure to each lifting (ST) that will be predetermined by the coaches. The coaches will be present to assist, supervise, direct and answer any questions and provide advice. Attendance and group/individual lifting journals and progress reports will be recorded and posted.

Monday & Wednesday 9:00am-10:00am (HS Varsity/JV Athletes)

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am-10:00am (Grades 7th-9th Athletes)

Performance Training (PT): Two days a week, with focus on the core strength development, speed, agility & conditioning with some sport specific exercises.

The (PT) will range from sprints to distance running (*general*). On the 2 open gym days each session will conclude with a conditioning portion ranging from sprints, speed & agility drills, and various other core activities.

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am-10:00am (HS Varsity/JV Athletes)

Monday & Wednesday 9:00am-10:00am (Grades 7th-9th Athletes)

Team Building (TB): 4-5 days a week by Sport (*if applicable*).

The (TB) portion is by sport and will consist of mostly open gym activities which will support developing basic as well as higher level sport specific technique, quality drilling skills, and a winning attitude and team building opportunities for all participating. The team building format will utilize the facilities such as football fields, tracks, baseball fields, wrestling room, main gym and auxiliary gym as well as related and available equipment and training tools. *Note: Selective Friday's for team building exercises for Football players will be incorporated (TBA).

Football: Monday-Thursday 10:00am-11:00am Meet at Practice Field

Wrestling: Monday-Friday 11:00pm-12:00pm Meet at Field House

The Time Frame: The SSC program runs from June 13th through July 31st (*excluding the dead period July 4th- 8th*).

Parent Permission Forms: The parent permission forms are available in the HS Athletic Department. Signed permission forms are due back to the Athletic Department c/o Coach Bennett-SSC Program by May 31, 2011.

Any questions or scheduling options, feel free to contact Steve Zurek (*Varsity football coach*) at 887-8213/ Cell: 560-2274/E-mail: steve.zurek@staff.spartaschools.org or Tom Bennett (*Varsity Wrestling Coach*) at 635-7559/E-mail: bennett.spartawrestling@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY CORNER

VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION 2011

Sparta Town & Country Days in July

NEW Categories and DROP off DATE!!!

Digital photography, painting, drawing, sculpture, mixed media and more...

Open to ALL AGES!

What: Sparta Town & Country Days Visual Arts Contest

When: July 7 - Drop off artwork

Where: Sparta Township Carnegie Library

Application: Visit www.spartafair.com or the Library

Why: Be part of the Art in Sparta!

Because: YOU can do it!

Details: Adults, \$5.00 entrance fee. Cash prizes awarded
Students, free to enter. Ribbons awarded.

Brought to you by the Visual Arts Committee volunteers!



Senior Bash 2012

Calling all parents of seniors of the graduating class of 2012. It is time to meet and start planning for a successful Bash for next year. Please join us for our first meeting at Sparta McDonald's on Tuesday, June 14th at 7:00 p.m. Bring your ideas and let's get started planning a fun Bash. Any questions please contact Janice Shanahan at 616.520-1503 or jsjewelryisfun@yahoo.com or Cherie Vet at 292.0339 or Cherie.vet@staff.spartaschools.org.

SHS Class of 1971 will be holding their 40th Class Reunion on Saturday June 25, 2011. We are looking for a few missing classmates.

Mario Burns, David Bowden, Robert Postma, Richard Wilk, Rick Redman, Gary Campbell, Pat Mullin Lilje, Sally Minogue Lineberry, Kathleen Robinson Kapinski, Charlotte Fredrick Linderman, Bonnie Videan Conran, Lydia Marvin Dexter, Kathleen Shue Hunt.

If you can give us an updated address for any of the following please contact Larry Carter 616-887-7600, Liz Benham 616-887-7782 or Gary Momber 616-887-0830.



AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE

Celebrate. Remember. Fight Back.

Relay for Life of Sparta

June 10-11, 2011

Noon-Noon

Sparta School Track

The American Cancer Society's, Relay for Life of Sparta, is a community event where everyone is welcome. There will be food, activities for people of all ages and entertainment, including bands.

This event raises money to fight back against cancer. This year we have 39 teams who have been actively fundraising all year long. They will have tents set up around the track and people from their teams will be walking around the track for 24 hours.

On Friday evening, there will be several ceremonies remembering those who lost their battles with cancer, celebrating those who are either fighting a courageous battle and/or won their battle, and fighting back against this disease which touches so many lives.

We welcome everyone to come and join us as the community of Sparta does what it can to put an end to cancer!

Sparta Youth Football Camp

Football season is just around the corner, and Sparta High School football staff and players would like to give your child a head start on the upcoming season. The camp is a great way to explore football for the first time or help the experienced player advance existing skills. Campers will be given the chance to learn technique for the following positions: offensive and defensive line, quarterback, defensive back, running back, linebacker, and receiver. Along with individual and group instruction, campers will receive a camp T-shirt, playbook, and the opportunity to compete in a punt, pass and kick contest.

Who: Campers will be divided into age groups.

Group 1 = Grades 2 - 6 (*tackle football eligible*)

Group 2 = Grades 7 - 8

When: Group 1 - August 15 - 17, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Group 2 - August 15 - 17, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Where: Group 1 - Sparta High School Practice Fields (*between high school and M37*)

Group 2 - Sparta Middle School Practice Field (*next to fieldhouse*)

Cost: \$20 - includes camp t-shirt

Please send in the completed form bottom to the address listed. Make checks payable to Sparta Football. Campers will be able to register on the day of camp. Early registration will help insure campers receive the appropriate t-shirt size. Walk up registration is allowed, but t-shirts will only be guaranteed for campers who pre-register.

Sparta Youth Football Camp

Attn: Steve Zurek

475 W. Spartan Dr.

Sparta, MI 49345

Any questions, feel free to call Steve Zurek (*varsity football coach*) W: 887-8213 H: 887-9715

Today's Preparation Determines Tomorrow's Success

2011 Sparta Youth Football Camp

Campers First/Last Name: _____

Campers Phone #: _____

Campers Age: _____ Grade: _____ Daytime Phone #: _____

Campers t-shirt size: Adult: XXXL XXL XL L M S Youth: YL YM (circle one)

Additional Information: _____

BOARD MEMBERS

Warren HillPresident
Carol Shirey.....Vice President
Julie McCallumSecretary
Clay BrownTreasurer
Jim Kerby, M.D.....Trustee
Nick LewisTrustee
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Mr. Mark Kasmer Assistant Superintendent887-8253
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Mr. Matt Spencer.....Principal, Sparta High School.....887-8213
Principal, Englishville High School
Mr. Cary Stamas..... Assistant Principal, Sparta High School887-8213
Mr. Joe Droski..... Athletic Director887-2098
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Mr. Jerry Gavin..... Transportation Director887-0136
Mr. Tony Smolinski..... Operations Supervisor887-0136

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.