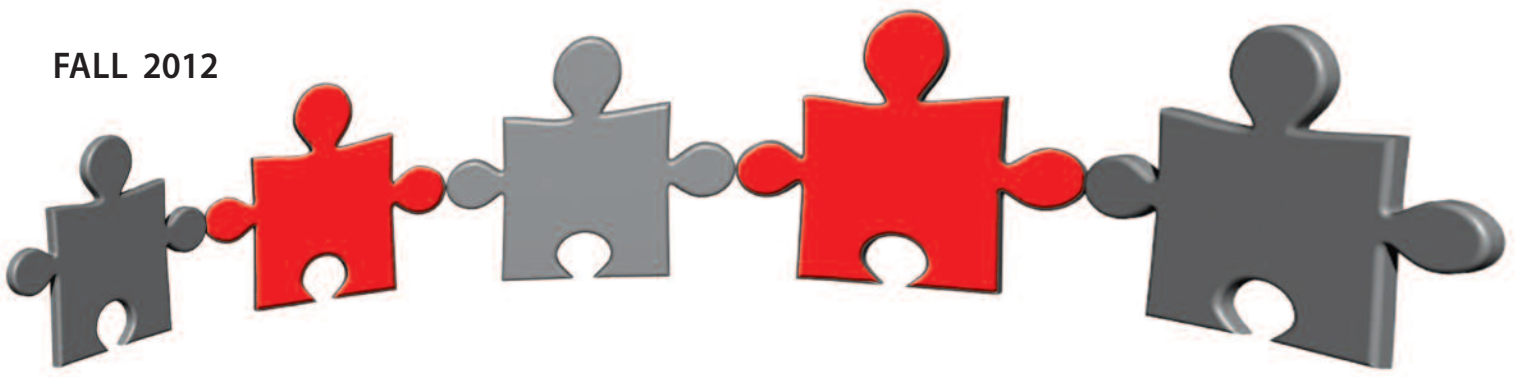


FALL 2012



MSD of Boone Township
Helping Students Succeed

BRIDGES

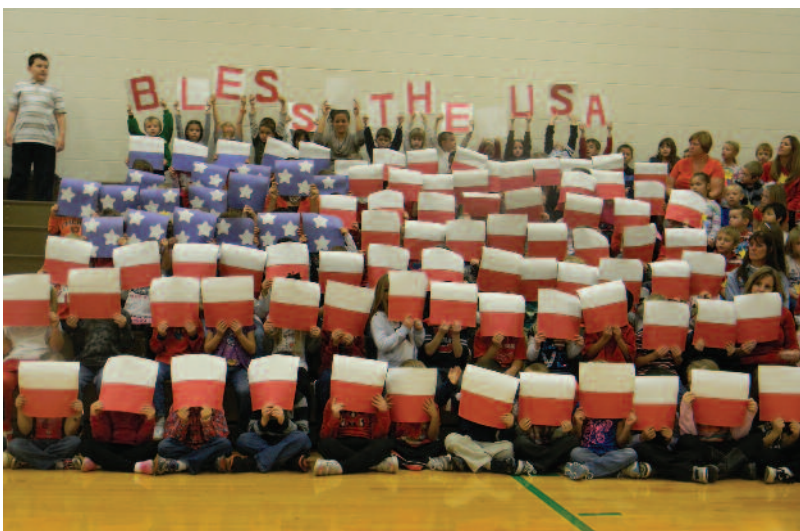
Connecting the Pieces of Life



Elementary guest speaker Jerry Brzycki, a local Marine involved in the Cuban Missile Crisis



Mr. Lyn Holst, Army Combat Medic in Vietnam and recipient of the Silver Star, is introduced by Mr. Yost Hebron Middle School teacher



Elementary students honor our Veterans



Dane Szymanski, currently serving in the U.S. Army and Veteran of Afghanistan, speaks at the Middle School / High School Veterans Day Program

Superintendent's Message



MSD OF BOONE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL CORPORATION RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS DISTRICT ACCREDITATION

MSD of Boone Township School Corporation has been approved to become a "district school corporation" accredited by AdvancED/ NCA/CASI a regional private accrediting organization. MSD of Boone Township school district joins the School Town of Munster, the School City of Hobart, the Duneland School Corporation and the Crown Point School Corporation in the Northwest Indiana area to achieve this recognition. AdvancED/ NCA/CASI is the private accreditation association for 35 states and 64 countries and thus is the largest accrediting agency in the world. This action is in addition to the state's (Indiana) endorsement of the policies, programs, and assessments (ISTEP+ scores, A-F individual school classification, graduation rate, and the progress of our students being college and career ready) of the school corporation.

This has been a two-year project which involved administrators, teachers, classified staff, parents, board members and community patrons. This process has initiated a district K-12 five year "strategic plan" which will be reviewed and tweaked yearly as it is implemented by staff commencing in 2012 and continuing through 2017 and beyond.

The district applied for AdvancEd/NCA/CASI recognition by seeking to be a "candidate" school corporation in 2010 and to begin the process of obtaining full accreditation within two years. In 2011 MSD of Boone Township was given approval to move forward after an AdvancED representative reviewed our self-assessment documents which included a district-wide parent survey. The district, including the groups listed above, began an 18 month process of reviewing the five standards required of AdvancED/NCA/CASI accreditation which included specific benchmarks to meet, questions to answer and the free exchange of ideas of all groups to measure the district's ability to achieve the AdvancED standards and judge our present level of attainment.

During this past October a visitation team, consisting of educators from Minnesota, Alabama and Indiana questioned teachers, visited classrooms, interviewed administrators, spoke to parents and exchanged ideas with classified staff (secretaries, instructional aides, custodians, bus drivers, etc.) about the mission, vision and plans of this corporation.

The results of this experience with a regional accreditation association have produced future recommendations to always endorse K-12 initiatives in curriculum/instruction, technology skills' requirements of both students and staff, and every student reaching mastery of understanding the new common core standards and being able to demonstrate mastery of those standards.

This recognition of our school corporation is a major accomplishment for this district (never obtained before) and one in which everyone is proud of what our staff members with the assistance of our parents have achieved and we will move forward in one direction of "helping students succeed."

George Letz – Superintendent

COMMUNITY FORUM

School district officials have always had to make difficult decisions when developing annual budgets. Superintendents regularly face the complex task of providing for student needs with fewer education dollars. Recent funding changes and the constitutional tax cap initiative have contributed to making the 2013 budget process the most challenging in many years.

The Indiana State Board of Education has encouraged districts to rein in spending without "affecting instruction." Experience has proven this is a difficult task; especially, if you have been reducing staff for the past 10 years based on the continual reduction of state support per student for our school corporation. The staff needed to meet the differentiated needs of our students is a "cost" not funded by the state legislature. We continue to be evaluated, as we should be, based on various accountability instruments and we continuously, as in the past, have met those challenges. We are now at a time where the challenge of "every child learning" has become more difficult to meet financially for the attainment of our goals in our strategic plan.

Citizens who believe that the educational programs provided by this school corporation are essential need to attend a **PUBLIC FORUM on Thursday, December 13th, 6:30 P.M. at Hebron High School** to discuss the financial concerns facing the MSD of Boone Township and possible solutions as well as the impact of those solutions on the community.

The district presentation and follow-up discussion will provide you with the factual information you need to assist school district personnel to move forward to educate your children and future youngsters of this school corporation.

Thank you.

George Letz,
Superintendent



FALL SPORTS



Boys Varsity Volleyball



Girls Varsity Volleyball



HS Boys Cross Country



HS Girls Cross Country



Boys JV Volleyball



Girls JV Volleyball



MS Girls Softball



HS Boys Soccer



HS Girls Soccer



7th Grade Girls Volleyball



8th Grade Girls Volleyball



MS Boys Baseball



MS Boys Cross Country



MS Girls Cross Country



High School News

On Friday, November 23, 2012, members of the 1962-63 Hebron boys basketball team were honored at the 50th anniversary of their memorable season. The team was the second Hebron team to win 20 games in a season, finishing the year with 20 wins against only 3 losses. The team won the Porter County Tourney, the South County Tourney, and the Porter County Conference (PCC) Round Robin Championship. This team also held the PCC Keg for the entire season, defending it and winning 12 games against PCC schools during the season. Three members of the team also were Gold Ball/M.E. Dinsmore Award Winners.



None of the members of the team went on to be professional athletes; however, the lessons that they learned in the gym and in the classrooms have proven to be a blessing. As individuals they have served the Hebron community as well as the larger community providing a great return on the investment that Hebron devoted to their education.



Members of the team went on to be school teachers, coaches, and administrators; farmers; craftsmen; and businessmen. Regardless of their career path, they have been a credit to the community that launched them on their life's journey.

As the 1962-63 team entered the gym, they passed by the same PCC keg that they defended so many years ago, as well as the girls' PCC traveling trophy, the cup. The career opportunities for which the members of this year's teams are preparing require different skills than the careers of their predecessors. The technology and breadth of curriculum in today's classrooms could not be anticipated by students from fifty years ago, but the individual attention and encouragement that a small school affords would be familiar to them. It is clear that the Hebron community has ensured that today's students will continue to have the advantage of a strong academic program in a setting where the mission is to challenge and prepare students to succeed in a global society.

Mark Lutze – Principal



Middle School News

Parents, please mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 5 starting at 6:00 in the evening. We will meet in the Middle School library to discuss several topics relevant to the middle school curriculum.

The evening will include information about getting ready for Common Core State Standards, implementing Project-Based Learning, using ACT's, EXPLORE results, and addressing Homework Tips and Middle School Success Skills.

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are here! I will spend some time talking about getting ready for the CCSS.

Project-Based Learning (PBL) is an interdisciplinary approach to teaching that promotes 21st century literacy and learning. PBL is ONE way that we are getting ready for the CCSS. PBL increases student interest, allows students to practice collaboration, creative thinking, problem solving, and communication skills while using media and technology media. PBL is a student-directed learning approach—from writing projects to Web projects, from audio-visual projects to performing projects. Mr. McLindon and Mrs. Stephens will present what PBL looks like at Hebron Middle School.

ACT's Explore is the first of three College and Career ready assessments that our students will take that are curriculum-based and show measurement over time. The students begin with EXPLORE in the 8th grade, PLAN in the 10th grade, and ACT in the junior and/or senior year. I will discuss the benefits of this cycle of testing and spend some time going over what your child's EXPLORE results mean at this time.

Homework Tips and Middle School Success Skills was the consensus topic from the Parent Survey given at Conferences. Mrs. Hunzelman will spend some time talking to you about helping your students find success at the middle school.

Please plan to attend! We feel very strongly that we need to share with our parents ALL of the changes that are occurring in the field of education...so that you are ready too!

Lori Pavell – Principal



National Honor Society

The Hebron Chapter of the National Honor Society Induction of new members was held during a candlelight ceremony on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 in the school auditorium.

New Members are . . .

David Bateman, Madison Bell, Brad Blank, Ryan Gilman, Bryce Hanaway, Matt Hernandez, Joann Keys, Morgan Morrow and Ashly Thalmann



Current Members are . . .

Briana Lewin, Emily DeFries, Rylie Shrum, Hailey Hernandez, Sydnee Bartz, Nathan Bateman, Katie Clemens, Cory Cox, Jay Fieser, Jenna Giacomini, Jackie Hall, Daisy Heath, Natalie Kaczmarek, Allison Lewis, David Lucas, Eli Magiera, Sydney Marrs, Ryan Patz, Rachel Pauer, Jenna Sarkey, Lexi Schatz, Ciarra Stalbaum, Michael Upchurch, Krysten Wielgus, Sarah Witt, Amber Wolfe, and Shelby Yankauskas



Officers are . . .

Briana Lewin, President
Emily DeFries, Vice President
Rylie Shrum, Secretary
Hailey Hernandez, Treasurer

NHS Adviser . . .

Mrs. Barbara Kraker

For further information regarding the chapter's activities, list of members and how to become a member, please visit the website at: www.hebronthighnhs.weebly.com. A link to this site can also be found on the school's web page.



Elementary School News



THE KEYS TO SUCCESS: PARENTS AND TEACHERS WORKING TOGETHER

When I look at the culture and climate we have developed at Hebron Elementary, one of the things that stands out to me is our parent support and involvement. I have been an administrator for 24 years in three different schools and I have been fortunate to live and work in supportive communities. At Hebron, we are one of the few districts to continue scheduling Parent / Teacher conferences. Our teachers and administrators believe these conferences are still very valuable for everyone (students, parents & teachers). Looking at the total percentage of parent attendance at these conferences this year (98%), I would say our parents feel the same. Wow! That says a lot for our school!

I would also like to share a few things about our P.T.G. (Parent / Teacher Group). Our current officers are Co-Presidents: Alice Reynolds and Peggy Patrick. Our Secretary is Vanessa Brown and our Treasurer is Leslie Chas. Our group meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Elementary Library. The goal of our P.T.G. is to support and enhance the educational offerings and programs for our students. Following is a short list of just some of the activities the P.T.G. supports and coordinates for our school: convocations, Honor Roll Breakfast, Spell Bowl & Math Bowl funding, purchasing of new playground equipment, help purchase new school sign, Arts & Crafts Bake Sale, parents proctoring ISTEP and NWEA testing, supply workers for School Book Fairs, Grandparent's Day, Good Deeds coat drive and food drive, Sock Hop.

As you can see, parents care and are involved in making Hebron Elementary a great school.

James Martin – Principal



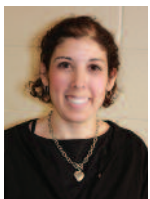
Good Luck Coop

Hebron Elementary/Middle School custodian, John Cooper, known to most of us as Coop, retired from his position in early November with 17 years of service. The Board of School Trustees presented Coop with a plaque and watched a short video of the celebration of Coop's last day with us.

The elementary staff and students gathered in the gym to wish him well and the middle school staff and students lined the halls and gave him high fives as he made his way through. Coop will be missed by all.



Welcome new staff member...



Stephanie Crook has joined the Hebron High School staff as a life science teacher. Ms. Crook attended Portage High School and is a graduate of Purdue University. She taught at Lake Central High School for four years before teaching at Portage High School for five years. While teaching at those schools, she also taught Mortuary Science at IVY Tech.

Ms. Crook's interests in life science have led to research outside of the classroom. She has worked with the Environmental Protection Agency studying invasive species on the Great Lakes, and has served as a liaison between researchers and teachers to bring research into the classroom. She has worked with Brown University in the study of invasive species at the Indiana Dunes. She has also assisted researchers at the University of Notre Dame in their study of the effect of climate change on species in the Indiana Dunes.

Ms. Crook loves to run, and she regularly participates in running events throughout the region. She also is active in community philanthropic organizations. We are pleased to have a teacher with such passion for her subject as a member of the staff.

Innovation Planning Grant

The MSD of Boone Township is one of 20 school districts in the State of Indiana to receive an "Innovation Planning Grant" from the Indiana Department of Education. The purpose of this \$30,000.00 grant is to assist technology planning in small school corporations interested in creating and/or increasing the potential for eLearning in their classrooms. This grant will assist staff to align our curriculum/instructional goals with our technology plan for the next several years.

Our long-term goal for this planning grant will be to provide engaging learning opportunities through technology resources to help our students achieve success, to take ownership of their learning, and to be critical consumers of digital resources within and beyond the walls of MSD of Boone Township.

Teachers are being asked to change the way they teach to effectively integrate technology, to incorporate the common core state standards (CCSS) and to provide college and career readiness skills.

As a result of the grant, we have formed a Technology Integration Leadership Team with representation from all three schools. This team will, with the help of an outside consultant, evaluate the needs and proficiencies of our teachers and students to identify the types of professional development needed to empower teachers to effectively integrate technology and to maximize student success and active engagement.

The second goal is to develop a comprehensive K-12 Technology Literacy Plan that will support the instructional changes toward digital age learning.

The third goal of the grant is to investigate 1:1 computing vs. Bring your own Device (BYOD) to develop an innovative plan for digital-age learning.

The Technology Integration Leadership team will be forming several focus groups to help us evaluate 1:1 vs. BYOD. If you might be interested in serving on one of these focus groups, please give one of the principals or the superintendent a call. We would be interested in talking to you.

Happy Holidays!
Mrs. Pavell

Honor Band Festival



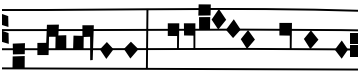
We would like to take the opportunity to CONGRATULATE Corey Cox (Senior, Percussion), Matt Gertz (Sophomore, Bass) and Ashley Martin, (Senior, Clarinet) on being selected as members of the "ALL-DISTRICT BAND" and representing Hebron High School at the Indiana Bandmaster's Association's "ALL-DISTRICT HONOR BAND FESTIVAL".

THE HONOR BAND WAS MADE UP OF JUST OVER 100 PERFORMERS THAT WERE SELECTED AS THE TOP CANDIDATES FROM OVER 25 AREA HIGH SCHOOLS.

They performed and participated in a Two-Day Music Festival, culminating in a Fantastic Concert November 11th at North Judson HS.

Corey, Matt & Ashley represented Hebron HS with pride! The guest conductor this year was Dr. Jeff Doebler, from Valparaiso University.

GREAT JOB! And Thank You Corey, Matt & Ashley for your hard work and preparation for the Honor Band performance.



We would like to CONGRATULATE Morgann Gericke (8th Flute), Cole Barzycki (8th Trumpet) & Steven Miskus (7th Clarinet) on being selected as members of the "ALL-REGION HONOR BAND" and representing Hebron Middle School at the Indiana Bandmaster's Association's "ALL-REGION HONOR BAND FESTIVAL".

THE HONOR BAND REPRESENTS OVER 100 PERFORMERS THAT WERE SELECTED AS THE TOP CANDIDATES FROM OVER 30 AREA MIDDLE SCHOOLS.

Our students had the rare opportunity to premier a new composition especially commissioned and composed for this festival. The piece was "A House Divided" for Symphonic Band, by the outstanding composer Brian Balmages.

The students performed and participated in a Two-Day Music Festival, culminating in a Fantastic Concert Sunday November 18th at Kankakee Valley HS.

GREAT JOB! And Thank You Morgann, Cole & Steven for your hard work and preparation for the Honor Band performance.

WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!!



Cross Country Champions

The Girls HS Varsity Cross Country Team accomplished many wins this fall. GREAT JOB!

North White Invite Champions, Hammond Gavitt Invite Champions, New Prairie Invite Champions, PCC Round Robin Champions, PCC Meet Champions, Crown Point Sectional Runners-up, and New Prairie Semi-State Qualifiers.





MSD of Boone Township
 Administration Office
 307 S. Main Street
 Hebron, IN 46341

Board of School Trustees

President David J. Molchan
 Vice President Jerry P. Fieser, Jr.
 Secretary Peter J. Blank
 Member Jeffery C. Barzycki
 Member Donald R. Fry

Feedback is Welcome!

Boone Bridges welcomes its readers' letters, comments and critique. Write to us at Editor, **BRIDGES**, MSD of Boone Township, 307 S. Main St., Hebron, IN 46341, or call (219) 996-4771.

Phone/Fax Numbers

Superintendent's Office 996-4771
 Fax 996-5777
 Hebron High School 996-4771
 Fax 996-5777
 Hebron Middle School 996-4771
 Fax 996-5777
 Hebron Elementary School 996-4771
 Fax 996-5777

Our Web Address

www.hebronschools.k12.in.us



**MSD of Boone Twp. School Corp.
 COMMUNITY FORUM**

Please make time to attend an important meeting discussing the financial concerns facing the MSD of Boone Township, possible solutions and the impact to the community.

Thursday, December 13, 2012 @ 6:30 pm
Hebron High School Auditorium
 509 S. Main St. • Hebron, IN 46341

2012-2013 School Calendar

12/24 - 1/4 Christmas Break - No School
 1/7 School Resumes
 1/11 1st Semester Ends for Elementary & Middle School (88 days)
 1/17 1st Semester Ends for High School (92 days)
 1/25 Make-Up Day #1 or Vacation Day
 2/15 Make-Up Day #2 or Vacation Day
 2/18 President's Day - No School
 3/4 - 3/13 ISTEP Test Dates (Applied Skills)
 3/25 - 3/29 Spring Break - No School
 4/1 Make-Up Day #3 or Vacation Day
 4/29 - 5/8 ISTEP Test Dates (Multiple Choice)
 5/27 Memorial Day - No School
 6/4 Last Student Day
 2nd Semester Ends
 6/5 Last Teacher Day
 6/6 Graduation

MAKE-UP DATES:

January 25th, February 15th, April 1st, June 5th and on, if needed.
 Approved by the Board of School Trustees 12/31/11

2012-2013 Guidance Calendar

ACT Registration Dates *Juniors & Seniors* 1/11, 3/8, 5/3
 ACT Test Dates *Juniors & Seniors* 2/9, 4/13, 6/8
 ACT Test Dates at Hebron High School *All Juniors* 4/23

Register online: www.actstudent.org

SAT Registration Dates *Juniors & Seniors* 12/28, 2/8, 4/5, 5/2
 SAT Test Dates *Juniors & Seniors* 1/26, 3/9, 5/4, 6/1

Register online: www.collegeboard.com/mysat

SAT Subject Test Dates *Seniors* 1/26, 5/4, 6/1

Register online: www.collegeboard.com/mysat

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

(FAFSA) *Seniors* January, February & March

File online at www.fafsa.gov Deadline March 1st

College Goal Sunday 2/24

Seniors – Parents can obtain help in completing the FAFSA by going to the website

www.collegegoalsunday.org

Porter County Career & Technical Center

Open House *Juniors & Sophomores* 12/4, 1/24, 2/6

Incoming Freshman Orientation TBA in January or February
8th Grade Students and Parents receive information about high school

2013-2014 Scheduling February & March
8th Grade Students and Parents meet individually with counselor to set up a four-year plan