BYRON AREA SCHOOLS
NOVEMBER 2025 EDITION

BYRON EAGLE PRIDE

BYRON HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

SEE PAGE 6

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



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BACK TO SCHOOL RALLY KICKS OFF THE YEAR WITH COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Byron Area Schools kicked off the 2025-26 school year with a successful and spirited Back to School Rally in August, bringing together families, students, staff, and community partners for an afternoon full of fun, connection, and support. The event welcomed over 200 attendees who enjoyed games, activities, and exciting giveaways from a wide range of local organizations.

The rally created a strong sense of community and excitement as the new school year began, with something for everyone, from free school supplies to engaging activities for kids of all ages. It was also a great opportunity for families to meet staff, learn about school programs, and connect with local resources.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all who participated, donated time, and contributed giveaways to make the event a success. We are especially grateful to:

- **Punky Prestonise**, for generously providing free haircuts for students
- **Byron PTA, Sports Boosters**, and **Youth Sports Programs**
- **Village Bible Church**
- **Byron Area Fire Department**
- **Byron Area Schools Food Service Team**
- **Girl Scouts**
- **U.S. Coast Guard**, for having representatives attend and engage with families

Thanks to the strong turnout and enthusiastic support, Byron Area Schools plans to make the Back to School Rally an annual tradition, with hopes to grow it bigger and better each year. We can't wait to see how the event evolves in 2026.









BYRON AREA SCHOOLS USE MICIP TO DRIVE STUDENT SUCCESS

Byron Area Schools is using a strategic, data-driven approach to improve student outcomes through MICIP, the Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process. This statewide framework helps schools identify needs, set goals, and implement effective, evidence-based strategies in a continuous cycle of improvement.

Rather than relying on one-time initiatives, MICIP encourages schools to use data and collaboration to make informed decisions that align across grade levels and departments. For Byron, the MICIP process has led to a strong focus on three key areas: building a positive school culture, increasing student engagement, and ensuring a well-aligned curriculum.

We're working to create a learning environment where every student feels supported and challenged. MICIP helps us stay focused, intentional, and responsive to what our students need.

To keep all stakeholders informed and engaged, Byron Area Schools will provide continuous updates on MICIP progress throughout the school year. A key focus this winter will be the administration of the Perception Survey, which will gather valuable input from students, staff, and families to help guide future improvements.

By regularly reviewing data and adjusting strategies, Byron Area Schools is ensuring that every effort is purposeful and that every student has the opportunity to thrive.

BYRON AREA SCHOOLS - SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Tonia Ritter, President	Jim Anibal, Vice President	Jeanette Prestonise, Secretary	Ellen Glass, Treasurer	Richard Whaley, Trustee	David Harris, Trustee	Phillip Hamilton, Trustee

SOAR LIKE AN EAGLE!

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Byron, Michigan 48418

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FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!
www.facebook.com/ByronAreaSchools

EAGLES' NEST PRESCHOOL & CHILDCARE

A NEW SCHOOL YEAR HAS BEGUN!

At Eagles' Nest, we believe every child deserves to SOAR — socially, emotionally, and academically. Each day is filled with discovery, creativity, laughter, and friendship as our little learners grow confident, curious, and independent.

From making new friends to exploring new ideas, our students are SOARing into a lifelong love of learning — one joyful moment at a time.

Join us at Eagles' Nest — where hearts and minds take flight.



PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AND UNDERWATER CELEBRATION

Mark your calendars for December 11th at 6 PM! We're hosting our 2nd annual Christmas program combined with an exciting underwater celebration. Our preschoolers will showcase their talents through festive performances that are sure to delight families.

We look forward to celebrating these moments with you!

NEW ELEMENTARY SENSORY GARDEN

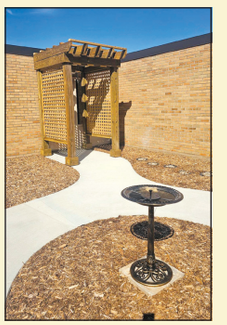
We're thrilled to introduce our brand-new Sensory Garden, a beautiful outdoor space designed for exploration, creativity, and calm. Funded through a preschool grant, this garden invites every child — and every visitor — to engage their senses in a joyful, hands-on way.

Children can wander along a winding pathway surrounded by nature's sights, smells, sounds, and textures. Along the way, they'll discover colorful blooms to touch and smell, gentle chimes that dance in the breeze, sparkling light prisms that cast rainbows across the path, and a soothing water fountain that brings peace and wonder.

A cozy, shaded picnic area provides the perfect place to gather, reflect, or enjoy outdoor learning moments. With every step, our Sensory Garden nurtures curiosity, supports social-emotional growth, and helps our students connect deeply with the world around them.

Together, we're growing a space where all children can soar through their senses — exploring, imagining, and learning in nature's classroom.







SCAN TO SEE THE SENSORY GARDEN!

DISCOVER QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AT BYRON AREA SCHOOLS!

Looking for a nurturing and enriching preschool experience for your child? Byron Area Schools' Eagles' Nest Preschool and Childcare offers a variety of programs to meet your family's needs!

OUR PROGRAMS:

- **3-Year-Old Full-Day Program**: Runs 4 days a week – a perfect balance of learning and play.
- **Flexible Options for 3-Year-Olds**: Choose from half-day and 2 or 3 day programs to suit your schedule.
- **4-Year-Old Full-Day Program**: Engaging, hands-on learning to prepare your child for success.
- **Half-Day Option for 4-Year-Olds**: A shorter program designed for early learners.

Also Offering Before and After School Childcare to accommodate your busy schedule!

At Eagles' Nest, we focus on fostering growth, creativity, and social skills in a safe and caring environment. Our experienced staff is dedicated to helping your child thrive.

CONTACT US TODAY TO LEARN MORE:

Byron Area Schools
Director: Darci Williams
Phone:810-266-6323
Website: www.byron.k12.mi.us/byronpreschool

Spaces are limited! Enroll your child in our Eagles' Nest Preschool and Childcare programs today!



BYRON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



Stacey Johnson
Johnson@byron.k12.mi.us

What an amazing first few months at Byron Elementary! Our Eagles have learned/reviewed what it means to S.O.A.R! Our school wide mantra means Show kindness, Offer respect, Act responsibly and Remember safety. Every time a student exhibits these qualities they earn a SOARing ticket to place in a drawing for a variety of events/ rewards at monthly assemblies. Of course, the kids chosen always have the option of choosing a brand new book from our Erik Jones vending machine and try their luck to see if they get an autographed book!

We are proud to share some exciting news, our current 6th grade students achieved outstanding results on their 5th Grade Spring MSTEP assessments! Not only did they score 5% above the state average in Michigan, which is a feat unto itself, but they had the highest scores in all of Shiawassee county! A huge thank you to our teachers, support staff, and families for their continued support! Thank you for continuing to invest in our school community. Together, we are creating an environment where students can thrive, and their accomplishments are something we can all celebrate.

Each month, our K-12 staff is celebrating and explicitly teaching a new character trait that best embodies being a Byron Eagle.

Our district is celebrating students who have exhibited an open mindedness trait this past September. These students have been chosen for their willingness to consider other's ideas and opinions, try new things and be empathetic to their classmates. Our recipients are presented with a certificate at our monthly board meetings complete with a teacher-written statement and celebrated by peers at our monthly SOARing assemblies. October will focus on Self Control and November will center on Gratitude.

SEPTEMBER STUDENT OF THE MONTH



WELCOME NEW TEACHERS AT BYRON ELEMENTARY



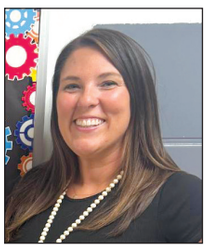
Samantha McEvoy
4th Grade



Julia Lane
4th Grade



Ally Young
Title 1 ELA Teacher



Krystal Howard
STEM Special Teacher





ADOPT A BOOK



Looking to make a small donation to make a big impact on student learning? Our elementary school utilizes the Adopt-A-Book program to grow our school's library. A donation of $20 places one brand new, library bound book in our school's library to be checked out by students for many years to come. In addition, your name or the name of your choosing will be placed on the Adopt-A-Book sponsor label inside the book during its life in the library. If you're interested in adopting a book, please contact Mrs. Stacey Johnson at the elementary or send in cash/ check made payable to Byron Area Schools with Adopt-A-Book in the memo. Thank you in advance for your support in creating lifelong readers here at BES! The great news, the books that are purchased through this program, have a lifetime warranty and can be replaced at any time that book needs repaired/replaced.



BYRON MIDDLE SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



Jay Schmitt
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MIDDLE SCHOOL POSITIVE VIBES WITH PBIS!

At Byron Middle School, our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) program is helping students soar! By focusing on clear expectations, positive reinforcement, and celebrating great choices, we are hoping to improve student achievement and create a culture for all to enjoy. When students feel supported and recognized, they're more motivated to achieve—and our Eagles have started out strong! In just one month a little under 200 PRIDE tickets have already been turned in for rewards, and many students have told me they are playing the probabilities and saving some of their tickets for certain rewards they have set their sights on! Great start Eagles!

BYRON EAGLES PBIS MS Positive Behavior System



CRAFTS & CONTEMPLATION CLUB OFF AND RUNNING

The Crafts & Contemplation Club is off and running! Students have chosen the "theme" for upcoming dates. October 2 was game day. The kids taught Mr. Schmitt how to play spoons! October 16 was the Fall/Halloween craft day. Both middle & high school students are welcome to join at any time. Contact Ms. Smith for any questions via email at smith@byron.k12.mi.us or via phone at (810) 266-4620.



BYRON MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNUAL TAILGATE WAS A TOTAL SUCCESS!

Just as they have done in years past, before a home football game, our Middle School Student Council hosted a fun event for students and staff. Teachers and staff helped serve, while everyone enjoyed cornhole, kickball, football, and more. Mr. Kimsel grilled hot dogs, and families donated chips and snacks. Afterward, everyone walked over to the Friday night football game!

NURSES NOTES

Question: What do kindergarteners, 7th graders, and new Byron transfer students all have in common?

Answer: Every November and February, the State of Michigan requires us to report the vaccination status for all kindergarteners, 7th graders and any new student to our district. Our school is required to have 95% of all these students fully vaccinated or have received waivers from the health department in order to receive all our funding.

Question: What vaccinations are required?

Answer: Required vaccinations for kindergarteners include DTap (4 doses), Polio (4 doses), MMR (2 doses), Hepatitis B (3 doses) and Varicella (2 doses). In addition to these vaccines, all 7th graders and new students ages 7-18 must have an additional TDaP and one dose of the Meningococcal Conjugate vaccine.



Mrs. Andrea Howard, RN

Question: What do I do if I want to waive or postpone a vaccination for a religious or medical reason?

Answer: A physician's office will be able to complete a medical waiver, called a State of Michigan Contraindication Form. That form is then turned into the school. Any other waiver must be completed through the Shiawassee County Health Department. Their number is 989-743-2355. They will be able to schedule an appointment for you to speak with a staff member, go over vaccine information and obtain the waiver. Usually, it can take up to a month to get an appointment, so please let us know as soon as you have the appointment scheduled.

Question: How long is the waiver good for?

Answer: The waivers are good until the next assessment period. For example, a kindergartener who receives a waiver will be good until 7th grade. A 7th grader is good for the rest of their time in Byron. A transfer student who received a waiver at their old school will have to obtain a new waiver before the next assessment time frame, either November or January. So, for instance, let's say a kindergarten student gets a waiver for a vaccine at their old school. The next September, for first grade, they transferred to Byron. By November, that student will need a new waiver from the health department, even though their old waiver is just a year old.

A big thank you to all the parents of our kindergarten, 7th graders and new students who have worked hard to make sure their kids are either up-to-date with their vaccinations or have received their waivers. Your commitment to keeping our students safe and healthy is very much appreciated.

It's good to be an Eagle!

BYRON HIGH SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



Jason Beverly
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BYRON BAND PROGRAM

It's been a whirlwind of sound and energy in the Byron Band program this month, with students across all grade levels making incredible progress! Our Beginning Band members have taken home their instruments for the first time, be sure to cheer them on as they explore the joy of making music. The Middle School Band is preparing for its Fall Concert, expanding its sound with exciting new percussion instruments, while the Byron Marching Band wraps up an outstanding season filled with spirited performances and excellent competition results. Adding to the excitement, thanks to Mrs. Sarah Fondren and the 100 Women Who Care of Durand, the band program received a generous $10,000 donation for new instruments! Thank you for your amazing support! Scan the QR code to access our September Smore newsletter and stay up to date on concert information!

SAVE THE DATE: Byron Bands Fall Concert, November 6th • 7pm • HS Gym



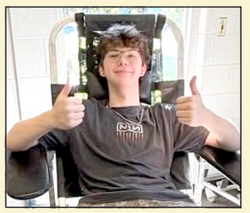
Excited 6th grade students learning how to "do" band before they even have instruments!



BLOOD DRIVE

Byron High School Student Council hosted their first blood drive of the year in partnership with Versiti Blood Center of Michigan, and it was a huge success! Their goal was 20 successful donations, and they exceeded it with 29 total, including about 8 first-time donors. Thank you to everyone who rolled up their sleeves, your generosity has the power to save up to 87 lives.







BYRON HIGH SCHOOL ART

Byron High School Art II students capped off a successful project with a sweet treat, celebrating their impressive ice cream drawings. These unique pieces were created on black paper using white charcoal pencil, providing a striking contrast. Their hard work and artistic achievements were fittingly rewarded with an ice cream party.

BYRON AREA SCHOOLS 6-12TH GRADE VIRTUAL ACADEMY

MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY

Byron Virtual Academy offers the perfect balance of independence and support for students with scheduling challenges, health needs, or those who simply thrive in a different learning environment. It also keeps students and valuable resources within our district, helping us continue to provide high-quality programs for all Byron learners. Learn more at www.byron.k12.mi.us/enroll



MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL FAMILIES:

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

We would greatly appreciate donations of pencils, seal top bags, and tissues.
Thank you for any help you can provide!

NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY

BYRON NHS: LEADING WITH SERVICE AND HEART!

The Byron National Honor Society is off to a great start this year with a strong commitment to serving our schools and community! Our dedicated members are providing tutoring support for students while planning impactful service projects—including assisting a local food bank, organizing a clothes drive, hosting a fun-filled elementary lock-in, participating in Wreaths Across America, and spreading cheer at a nursing home with bingo and Christmas cards. These outstanding Eagles are proving that leadership shines brightest through service! If you, your group, or anyone you know could use help please reach out to an NHS officer -

@BYRON_NHS

Reagan Murphree - President
Eisley Rocco - Vice President
Vanessa James - Service
Ashtyn Lantz - Secretary
Jonah Spencer - Treasurer
Molly Webster - Tutoring!

Also follow us on instagram!













HOMECOMING HAPPENINGS!

Byron 2025 Homecoming was truly magical! From spirited events to incredible school pride, it was a week to remember for our entire community. Thank you to everyone who helped make it so special!

Congratulations to this year's class representatives, our 2025 Homecoming Queen and King, Molly Webster and Brandon Wilson, and our Honorary Eagle, Wade Prestonise!

Highlights of the week included the always-exciting Powderpuff Game (with the Seniors taking the win!), creative Fast Food–themed float competition (also won by the Seniors!), and our 2nd annual "Byron Eagle School Spirit" token tradition, where our seniors passed their pride and legacy down to the kindergarten class.

We also loved seeing our varsity athletes and band members visit Byron Elementary to spread school spirit, and our younger Eagles proudly wearing their purple and gold necklaces, thanks to the Byron PTA! From the HOCO Café Crew's festive homecoming Friday picnic lunch, to the FFA Alumni's annual Homecoming Barbecue that served 370 guests, this year's homecoming was full of connection, pride, and community spirit.

Thank you to our Student Council, Varsity Cheerleaders, teachers, families, and volunteers for making Byron Homecoming 2025 one we'll never forget!

HAPPY HOMECOMING, BYRON!























BYRON HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

VARSITY CHEER



The Byron Cheerleading Program moved in a great direction this season. Between both teams, Middle School and Varsity, we had 20 girls on our roster. This season focused a lot on technique and motions, but we also worked on improving different skill sets, tumbling and stunting as well. When it comes to Cheerleading, a lot of people don't realize the commitment that comes with it. With commitment comes leadership and we think a little extra spotlight needs to be shown on Aubrey Greene for Varsity. She makes a coach's job just a click easier. Her dedication, commitment, memory, enthusiasm and love for the sport is noticed by all and deeply appreciated throughout this program. Another Sideline Shoutout that cannot go unmentioned is towards Bree Voyle. Although injured the majority of the season, she didn't let that hold her back from helping and being a part of the team. Her memory of past season chants and motions was extremely helpful to Coach personally while she transitioned from the Middle School coaching position to Varsity. Having athletes readily available to step up and take charge is what a Varsity sport is all about and these two mentioned athletes deserve an extra round of applause for doing so. We cannot wait to see what we continue to grow our program into come Winter 25-26 and beyond! We are just getting started!

VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY



With MMAC competition complete. Delaney Richardson was awarded 1st Team All Conference, and Brayden Steele was awarded 2nd Team All Conference. The team completed a Marathon to run the game ball into the stadium for Homecoming. Byron is positioned to have many runners advance to States this year.

VARSITY GIRLS GOLF

Sophomore Adalen Brown continued to shine in her second season with the girls' golf team, delivering another outstanding year on the course. She earned First Team All-Conference honors for the second consecutive season, solidifying her status as one of the top players in the league. At the regional finals held at Rustic Glen Golf Course in Saline, Brown secured an impressive second-place finish with a score of 84. She carried that momentum into the state tournament at Ferris State University's Katke Golf Course, where she placed first in the individual qualifiers and third overall, shooting an 80 on Friday and an 85 on Saturday. With two more seasons ahead of her, we can't wait to see what the future holds for Adalen and the continued success she's sure to bring to the program.



SCAN FOR:
High School and Middle School
ATHLETIC SCHEDULES

VARSITY FOOTBALL



After a hard-fought homecoming football game on 10/17/25 and following a challenging start to their high school careers, this resilient football team has made positive strides and risen to the occasion through sheer will and dedication. Guided by a special class of (11) seniors, that transformed their fortunes by committing to the offseason and setting new standards for the program, not just goals. This senior leadership has been the heart of the team's revival, teaching younger players the importance of work ethic, accountability, and the unselfish pursuit of a common objective. This team's story is a testament that sometimes talent can be outmatched by a superior attitude and relentless effort. Their journey is a powerful reminder that true success isn't always measured on a scoreboard, but in the growth, character, and unbreakable bond forged by a team that refused to quit.

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL



With a stellar record of 22-3-1, Byron Varsity Volleyball wrapped up the season in 2nd place in league, marking another chapter of excellence for our program. We had the honor of recognizing two incredible international exchange students — Frieda Quaas from Germany and Celina Soegaard from Denmark. Their passion, energy, and commitment have left a lasting impression, and we are so grateful they chose to share their journey with us. They will be deeply missed. We also celebrated our six amazing seniors, whose leadership and heart have shaped the soul of this team: Gracie McDowell and Zadie Schmidt – our two 4-year varsity players; Reagan Murphree, Molly Webster, Emma Glass, and Ashtyn Lantz – our 3-year varsity standouts. Together, they've amassed over 100 wins, a league title, and back-to-back district championships. But more than the accolades, they've been the heartbeat of Byron Volleyball — from their early days in elementary school to their final season on the court. Their legacy will echo through our program for years to come, and their absence will be deeply felt. Thank you, seniors, for everything.

JV VOLLEYBALL



The Byron JV Volleyball team has faced a tough season, but their effort and resilience continue to stand out. Despite the challenges, the girls have shown steady improvement, stronger teamwork, and great attitudes on and off the court. As the season wrapped up, the JV team's dedication and hard work have laid a strong foundation for the future of Byron Volleyball.

JV FOOTBALL



The JV team continues to make progress as the season progresses. They are growing stronger with every game. The players' energy, commitment, and effort are outstanding. These players are the future of our program and we are proud of the progress they have made this season.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS

CHEER

This season we have been very busy! We hired a company to come and help improve our tumbling skills! The middle school cheer team now has 4 girls who can do their back walkovers, (Myah Hunter, Delilah Mishler, Kali Poppen & Ava White) two girls who have their front walk overs (Kenadi Dann & Myah Hunter) and 2 girls who are currently working on getting their backhand springs (Delilah Mishler & Myah Hunter)! As a program we did a fundraiser for Breast Cancer Awareness and made over 100 goodie bags and cards to be dropped off at treatment centers! The girls have been working so hard and it definitely shows on the sideline! One of our 7th graders, Ava White won student on the month in October! These girls have excelled on and off the field! We have had a very successful sideline season and I am excited to see how many more skills we can achieve in the winter!

FOOTBALL

Middle School Football ended on a high note with the team playing its best game ever. This team has worked hard and has made great strides in their skill and knowledge of the game. While our season was not what we hoped for, mainly due to injuries, the boys worked hard and gave their all to represent Byron and we could not be more proud.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Our Girls' Middle School Basketball team finished the season on a high note! They secured a close win against Birch Run, with Kaitlyn Hajduk making the game-winning shot with just 7 seconds left on the clock. The final score was 29-28. All of the girls showed great growth throughout the season and worked hard until the final buzzer. Congratulations to our Girls' Middle School Basketball team on a successful season!

CROSS COUNTRY

The Middle School XC Team has had an Amazing season this year. Every meet has been full of excitement and determination. Lucas Quimby and Stuart Hetchler made their 8th grade year one to be proud of with both being in the 13's pushing everyone else to chase them down. Issac Spencer is in his 1st year and right behind them in the 14's followed by Reilly Bedgood and Makayla Perry are in the 15's, Darci Hetchler is in the 16's, James Harrison is in the 19's and James Kolleck is in the 21's. XC takes grit to get through those hard miles and this year's team has shown up, pushed through, and set PR's to be proud of. Way to go Eagles XC.

BYRON EAGLES ALL SPORTS BOOSTERS UPDATES

The Byron Eagles All Sports Boosters wanted to take a moment to thank the community for your participation in our 1st ever FLUSHED fundraiser. The Purple Privy and Gold Commode traveled near and far, house to house this summer. Laughs were had and smiles were shared to all they visited. The response was tremendous and we are excited to announce that over $3,000 was raised to support the Eagle Stadium bathroom remodel!

Our annual fall mums fundraiser was our most successful year yet, with funds raised going towards HUDL which allows our highschool sports the ability to review game film, track season and game statistics for teams and individual players.

We have some exciting events and fundraisers planned for the upcoming winter months, including the 3rd annual music event on 1/24/26 at Perry Township Hall. More details and tickets sales to be announced soon!



If there is anyone who would like to join the BEASB team or get involved with Byron athletics, please feel free to join us at our monthly meetings which take place the 2nd Wednesday of every month, 7pm at the highschool library. We hope to see you there! Go EAGLES!

BYRON EAGLES ALL SPORTS BOOSTERS
BEASB
CASH RAFFLE
MUSIC EVENT
SQUIRREL HUNT
GOLF OUTING

Wyrick's Orchard
Dave & Irene Wyrick
810-266-5286 or 810-845-8517
10407 S. Byron Rd.
Byron, MI 48418
mrfarmallh@gmail.com

PUNKY'S
Located inside the Sola Salon
17245 Silver Parkway, Suite 23
Fenton, MI 48430
517 404 2228
antoinetteprestonise.glossgenius.com
punkyscutsformen@gmail.com
find me on Facebook

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