

BLACKBIRD & SHAY NEWS & INFORMATION

January 15, 2010

Attendance Line:
Blackbird 526-4660
Shay 526-4550

Blackbird: Building the Foundation


Shay: Academic Excellence in a Family Atmosphere


UPCOMING EVENTS

1/18	PTO Mtg 6:30
2/10	Early Release 1:30 pm
2/19	NO SCHOOL
2/25	Spring Pictures

Silly Spelling Games

Dig out your child's spelling list and a sense of adventure. These two games can add a new twist to routine spelling drills.

 In the first game, let your child be the teacher and call out spelling words to you. As you write the words down, your job is to misspell some words on purpose. The goal? For your child to find and correct spelling errors.

 The second game can be fun for the entire family. One player spells a word out loud-backward. The other players can write the letters down, then try to guess the word. The first one to guess correctly picks the next word to spell backward. Be prepared for a challenge-or is it egnellahc?



ITALIAN NITE DINNER

It's back...the Harbor Springs Ski Team ITALIAN NITE DINNER at Teddy Griffin's Roadhouse. This event will take place from 5-8 p.m. on Tuesday, February 2nd. The \$10 ticket includes entree, salad, "Ted Bread", soda, and dessert. Take out orders are available...you just need to tell us at the door and we'll get your order ready quickly. Come join us...let the ski team's varsity/JV racers wait on you! Tickets are available at the door or from any Middle School and High School team member.

ENRICHMENT NEWS

BB Wee Mail: The day of mail delivery is now **FRIDAY!** Please have all mail in the blue boxes **by 8:05 on Friday mornings** for same day delivery. Thanks.

BB Publishing Center: Every Wednesday morning students bring creative stories to the cafeteria for publishing. Please join us and help these young authors make magic!

Shay Science Fair: The projects were amazing! The students did an outstanding job! Congratulations to all our young scientists!

National Spelling Competition: Students that have placed first and second in the School Bees will be competing in the County Bee held at Shay on **Thursday, February 4!** Good luck Claire Liska and Austin Cochran (Shay) and Kate Liska and Claire Fleming for MS!

Fourth Grade Problem

Solvers: The following students did an amazing job solving difficult word problems: Zoe Shepherd, Anna Pekrul, Alivia Cavitt, Nick Bonter, Christopher Erleben, Jacob Young, Baylei Houtz and Martha Johnston.

Glen's Cash for Class

Mark your calendars for:
February 21-27
&
April 18-24
Spend, Spend, Spend



Principal's Corner

We are pleased to announce that Marcia McEvoy, a nationally renowned speaker, will be presenting a parent workshop addressing teasing, intimidation and harassment to all interested parents on Monday, February 15th at 6:30 p.m. in the Middle School/Shay cafeteria.

The district has spent nearly 1½ years focusing on the issues of bullying and aggressive behavior and we are excited to share our plan with you. Ms. McEvoy is a dynamic and knowledgeable speaker. I hope that you will be able to join us for this important meeting.

Mrs. Karey Scholten



REPORT TO PARENTS

How Parents Can Turn Off TV Violence

It's hard to believe, but by the end of elementary school the average American child has watched 8,000 murders and 100,000 acts of violence on television—including children's programs. Many mental health professionals warn that this constant bombardment of violence desensitizes children and has spawned an alarming increase in juvenile delinquency.

Few critics dispute the link between TV and real-life violence. In fact, the TV industry made a tacit admission of its concern by recently agreeing to cut back on program violence. And Congress is considering legislation that would impose controls on TV violence.

Meanwhile, worried parents need not feel helpless. You *can* do something about TV violence. Here are some suggestions:

- **Set an example:** Don't leave the TV on all the time, even when you're eating or engaged in other activities. Select specific programs for information or entertainment, and don't watch violent "adult" shows when children are present.

- **Don't use TV as a baby-sitter:** Keep interesting items handy as alternatives to TV, such as jigsaw and crossword puzzles, board games, crayons, pencils, paper, books and magazines.

- **Reject all other violent "media":** Make it a family rule that violence has no place in your home, whether on videotapes, video games, radio programs, music lyrics, or reading materials.

- **Schedule daily activities:** Teach your child to plan a daily after-school schedule in which TV fills only a small block of time—or perhaps none!

- **Plan a weekly TV schedule:** Sit down each week with your child and choose suitable children's and family programs from the weekly TV listings.

- **Use TV to teach:** Children interpret what they see on TV differently than adults. They may not be able to distinguish fiction from fact, and something you

think is funny may terrify a child. Therefore it's a good idea to watch programs with your child and explain the difference between news and entertainment, reality and make-believe, education and exploitation. Discuss programs with your children and compare your family values with those shown on TV.

- **Keep an eye on the tube:** Locate the family TV in a central location where you can monitor who is watching what. Children should not have TV sets in their bedrooms, although radios may be permitted and books are encouraged. Watch and evaluate new programs—even cartoons—before you let your child tune in.

- **Encourage other activities:** The average American child watches TV for 27 hours a week, almost as much time as is spent in school! You can reduce TV time by requiring or promoting other at-home activities, such as exercise, hobbies, crafts, reading, playing games, tending pets, helping with household tasks, doing homework, keeping a journal, and writing letters.

- **Look for good TV:** There are many fine programs on television that you can watch with your children, including concerts, plays, sports events, nature and wildlife shows, animated films, and movies suitable for children.

- **Join forces to oppose TV violence:** Cooperate with teachers and other parents in efforts to reduce TV violence by writing or calling local and network television officials, government regulatory agencies, and Congressional leaders. Let them know that you are concerned about TV violence and advocate the development of quality programs for children. You might want to volunteer to be a member of a panel of parents, teachers, and students that reviews TV programs and movies, and publishes its reviews in the school paper. ☺

