

# BRITTON-MACON AREA SCHOOL



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## Community Newsletter

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Volume 1 Issue 99

Dec./Jan./ Feb. 2009/2010

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### **From The Superintendent**

Charles Pelham

I thought I would take this opportunity to share with you the direction Britton-Macon Area School is taking during these financially trying times. Each and every one of us has had to adjust his/her spending and the district is no exception. The Board of Education has made the decision to not make any professional staff reductions for the remainder of this school year. We are making as many internal cost saving measures as possible. I do not believe it would be good for the education of our students to make program cuts during the school year. However, should there be additional reductions in State Aid, we will have no option but to reexamine our programs and make appropriate reductions. We will simply have to wait and see the direction the legislation takes and make our decisions from there. I know this is a gloomy picture to paint, but I have complete confidence everyone here will work hard to continue to offer the best education possible for your children.

On a much brighter note, we have had a slight increase in our student population. I know many of you have had to adjust your personal schedule to ensure your children can attend Britton-Macon Area School and I thank you for that. We work very hard at providing a well- rounded education for your students. We will continue to look at our curriculum and make necessary adjustments where needed. I hope you continue to support the efforts of everyone here at the district. Along with the increase in student population, we have received a federal grant for the purchase of two new school buses. We have also received some dedicated grant money to be used for technology and special education. Using this money, we have purchased numerous technology upgrades for our classrooms and staff to better prepare our students for the future.

I have been so impressed with this community and the value placed on education. We have an incredible number of volunteers who assist the district, and I want to thank each of you for helping us. All of our events are well attended.

We have expanded our preschool program by adding a Kids Care program. This program was added because of the need we have in our community for before school and after school care. Please contact us if you have any questions about our program.

Our Senior Center continues to grow, and they continually add activities to their schedule. If you wish to become involved, please take the opportunity and join us.

I want to inform you this will be the last mass-mailed newsletter for the district. In the future, we will be placing the newsletter on our website. This is a result of another cost saving measure we have had to implement. If you are unable to access the web, please inform our offices and we will make every effort to ensure you receive a copy of our newsletter.

We have an excellent faculty and staff here, and I am very pleased to be a part of the experience your students have here at Britton-Macon Area School.



## Upcoming Dates December

- Wed., Dec 2. Blood Drive – 12:00 – 4:45 PM – Multi  
 Fri., Dec. 4 Band in Tecumseh Holiday Parade – 7:00 PM  
 Sat., and Sun., Dec. 5 and 6  
 HS Drama Play—*Fame*  
 Tues., Dec. 8 Band Concerts – 6:30 PM in Cafetorium  
 Thurs., Dec. 10 Pre-School Holiday Concert 6 and 7 PM –  
 Cafetorium  
 Mon., Dec. 14 Board of Education Meeting 7:00 PM –  
 Media Center  
 Tues., Dec. 15 PTO Meeting – 6:00 PM – Media Center  
 Wed., Dec. 16 Common Planning Time –  
 Classes begin at 9:33AM  
 Wed., Dec. 16 MS Play at 7:00 PM in the Cafetorium  
 Fri., - Tues., Dec. 18 – 22  
 Semester Exams  
 Mon., Dec. 21 Elementary Holiday Concert – 7:00 PM – Gym  
 Tues., Dec. 22 Holiday Break begins – ½ day of school –  
 dismissed at 11:17 AM

### January

- Mon., Jan 4 School Resumes at 7:45AM  
 Wed., Jan. 6 Financial Aid Night – 6:30 PM  
 Mon., Jan. 11 Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 PM –  
 Media Center  
 Mon., Jan. 18 No School for Students  
 Tues., Jan. 19 PTO Meeting – 6:00 PM – Media Center  
 Wed., Jan. 20 Common Planning Time –  
 Classes begin at 9:33AM.  
 Wed., Jan. 27 Blood Drive – Noon to 4:45 PM – Multi

### February

- Sat., Feb. 6 HS Solo and Ensemble  
 Mon., Feb. 8 Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 PM –  
 Media Center  
 Fri., Feb. 12 Mid-Winter Break Begins – ½ day –  
 School dismissed at 11:17 AM  
 Mon., Feb. 15 Mid-Winter Break – No School  
 Tues., Feb. 16 School Resumes at 7:45AM  
 Tues., Feb. 16 PTO Meeting – 6:00 PM – Media Center  
 Wed., Feb. 17 Common Planning Time –  
 Classes begin at 9:33AM  
 Wed., Feb. 24 Band Concerts – 6:30 PM – Cafetorium  
 Fri., Feb. 26 Mobile Dentist – Time to be determined.

### *Elementary Holiday Musical*

### *’Twas the Night Before Christmas*

**Monday, December 21, 2009**

**7:00 PM - Gym**

This year’s musical features the story of “The Night Before Christmas with familiar holiday songs, solo parts, and readings all by our Britton-Macon Area School Kindergarten through Fifth grade students.

## National Honor Society

The National Honor Society is pleased to announce the induction of three new members: Tessa Medrea, Sydne McMullen, and Jasmine Jacob. At our induction ceremony on October 13, our new members spoke on one of the pillars of the National Honor Society: scholarship, leadership, service, and character. The chapter is excited to begin another year of serving our school body and community.

We also hosted our first of four Red Cross Blood Drives on September 30th. The Red Cross was able to collect 47 units, which will be used to help more than 100 recipients. Not only did we have many returning students, staff, and community members donate, but we had many first time donors as well. Our next drive is December 2nd. We hope to have even more students and community members donate since the Red Cross reports that donations typically take a downward turn during the holidays. Please come out and support the Red Cross and our National Honor Society members on the December 2nd from 12:00 to 5:45.

### United States History Class News

Mrs. Oliver's United States History class would like to thank the veterans of the American Legion in Britton for coming to school on Friday, November 13. The students appreciated the time you offered and your willingness to share your stories. We realize what a wealth of knowledge we have in this community.

The class is also collecting used cell phones to recycle through the American Legion. Each phone earns a phone card so soldiers overseas can call home. We do not need cords or batteries, and the phones do not need to work. We are up to 70 phones at this point and would love to reach 100...or more. Phones can be dropped off anytime at school.



### Bucket Fillers

The Britton Elementary is extremely pleased to be a "bucketfilling" school. The patterns of self-esteem start very early in life and are fostered by others. We understand this need, and we are taking positive action to help our school children. Carol McCloud, author of *Have You Filled Your Bucket Today?* is an expert in infant brain research. She noted, "it is helpful to think of every baby as being born with an invisible bucket." The bucket represents a child's mental and emotional health. You can't see the bucket, but it is there. It is primarily the parents' or other caregivers' responsibility to fill a child's bucket. When you hold, caress, nurture, touch, sing, play and provide loving attention, safety and care, you fill your child's bucket.

However, in addition to being loved, children must also be taught how to love others. Children who learn how to express kindness and love lead happier lives. When you love and care about others, it shows in what you say and do. You feel good and you fill your own bucket too!

In addition to helping make bucketfilling an everyday life philosophy for their child, his/her support will also benefit your school's investment in our program.

Thank you to the Britton PTO for sponsoring this valuable program. Also, thank you to the TLC for their donation of the Bucket Filling book to each elementary classroom teacher.

### **Britton Marketing and DECA Chapter News Advisor: Elizabeth Pechaitis**

The Britton DECA Chapter is **57 members** strong this year! We have already had a busy year and have plans for many more exciting events:

- Professional Development: Eight members attended the State Leadership Conference in Detroit on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. Students participated in a FOCUS Leadership Training program with over 500 DECA members from across the State. They stayed at the beautiful Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center and also attended a Red Wings hockey game at Joe Louis Arena.
- Fundraiser: Wendy's Coupon Cards are on sale now! A \$10 card gets you up to \$100 in value! 20 coupons for FREE sandwiches and 8 coupons for a FREE frosty- the card expires Dec. 2010. Great stocking stuffers! See a DECA member or Mrs. Pechaitis today. Sale ends Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Competition: All members will be participating in the District Conference at Eastern Michigan University on Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>. Please wish our chapter luck as members compete for a spot at the State Conference in March.
- School Store: The store is opening Wednesday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>. Please stop by for a Swirl Slush, snacks, and treats! Also, the Patriot Spirit Gear Order forms went out the week of Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>. Orders are due by Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> and will be in before holiday break. Give the gift of Patriot Spirit Gear this holiday season! If you have any questions or need an order form, please contact Mrs. Pechaitis at ext: 233.

### **Free Ways to Help our School**

"Free" Fundraisers! You can help raise money for our school without spending anything extra! Please help us participate in the following programs:

**Inkjet & Laser Cartridges**--Please bring in your used/empty inkjet and laser cartridges! We earn 50 cents to \$5 for each cartridge that we recycle. Don't forget to bring in the ones from your workplaces, churches, etc.!

**Tyson Chicken Project A+!**--Please bring in your "Project A" labels from Tyson chicken products. We earn 24 cents

for each label. Please visit [www.tyson.com/projectaplus](http://www.tyson.com/projectaplus) for a list of products.

**General Mills Boxtops for Education**--We earn 10 cents for each Box Top label that you bring in! We also can earn .5% to 20% of your online purchases from many stores including Oriental Trading, Current, GAP, Cabelas and more! Please visit [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) for a list of participating Box Top products and stores.

**Campbell's Labels for Education**--Please bring in the labels from participating products. Please visit [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com) for a list of eligible products.

**Terra Cycle**--We earn two cents for each foil drink pouch (Capri Sun, Kool-Aid, etc) and energy/granola/cereal bar wrapper (Nature Valley, Luna Bar, Cliff Bar, etc) that we recycle! Please encourage your students to recycle these items from their lunches! There is a bin in the cafeterium for these items. Please go to [www.terracycle.net](http://www.terracycle.net) for more information.

**Target Take Charge of Education**--Target will donate 1% of your Target purchases with a Target check card, credit card, or Visa. Please designate Britton-Macon Area School using ID# 60845.

**Meijer Community Rewards**--Meijers will donate .5% to 1% of your Meijer purchases when you scan your Meijer Customer Card or use your Meijer credit card. Please designate Britton-Macon Area School using ID#712793.

**Michigan Apple School Sweepstakes**--Please send in your Michigan Apple proofs of purchase from apple bags. The more proofs of purchase that we collect, the greater chance we have of winning \$1000 - \$5000. Please visit [www.michiganapples.com](http://www.michiganapples.com) for more information.

### **Middle & High School Counseling News & Announcements Mr. Rickard, Counselor**

Welcome back! The year kicked off on August 26, with two orientation sessions for incoming middle school students (6<sup>th</sup> graders). Mrs. Musielewicz assisted as students were issued schedules, taken on school tours, looking at of schedules, meeting teachers, and practiced and mastered those tricky, mysterious locker combinations. Mr. Eisley delivered a power-point presentation regarding student opportunities in middle school. The program was well attended. Kudos to parents who made time to attend with their kids. A lot of apprehension regarding the unknowns of middle school life was alleviated through these activities. Eighth grade students participated in a tour of Lenawee Vo-Tech and the Lenawee Campus of Jackson Community College on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Guidance groups for middle school students are being planned to help with adjustment or social concerns. Feel free to inquire if your child has a need. A new initiative for middle school this year allows for them to get outside during the lunch hour, after finishing lunch and cleaning their area. This has been very popular so far.

All high school and middle students have been or will be creating or updating their EDP, educational development plans. The high school has welcomed several new students this fall. A welcome picnic was held for these 30 students early in September. Guidance sessions for juniors and seniors regarding college and other post-secondary training are under way. Topics include ACT preparation, testing, scholarships, college visits, and financial aid. Many juniors and seniors attended the regional college night held at Siena Heights in October. All juniors took the ASVAB, the armed services vocational aptitude battery in October. This inventory helps student identify interests and aptitudes. It also identifies careers in which they could expect to be successful. An educational specialist came November 17 to help interpret the results and help students identify the careers that best align with their identified aptitudes and interests. Sophomores toured Vo-Tech November 24 to help make their final choices for afternoon classes next year.

A leadership group called the Be The Change Team, which is made up of students from the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades, has been meeting weekly. The mission of the group is to help make the school a more positive and encouraging place for all students. They participated in a two-day training and retreat on November 20 & 21 to learn helping, listening, and intervention skills that will serve them in accomplishing this mission. On Challenge Day, November 30, all freshman, sophomores, and juniors along with several select seniors from the Be the Change Team, will attend this all day program aimed at challenging ideas or attitudes that are detrimental to individuals and/or the school climate.

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**Britton-Macon Area School**  
**201 College Avenue**  
**Britton, MI 49229**

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On October 22, sophomores took the PLAN, a pre-ACT or preparatory instrument that will help us determine strengths and identify areas for improvement. With the new state requirements for proficiency, it is more important than ever for students to do well on these assessments. Every test is based on prior learning and builds toward or prepares for the next. Please encourage your students to prepare for and do their best on these.

Financial Aid: a financial aid officer from one of the local colleges will give a presentation on financing postsecondary education on January 6 at 6:30 p.m.. Topics will include filling out FAFSA forms, scholarships, grants, and loans. Individual reminders will be sent to homes of juniors and seniors. Please contact me for assistance in any of these areas. Happy Holidays to you and your families.

### **Winter Sports Information**

To better serve the Athletic Cooperative Programs, athletes, and parents, we have changed how you access the sports information for the cooperative. You will still go to [highschoolsports.net](http://highschoolsports.net) but instead of searching for Britton, you will now search for **co-op britton/deerfield athletics**. Highschoolsports.net will also allow you to sign up for alerts and emails to advise you when a change has been made to the athletic schedule. More information regarding this service is available on the website.

**POSTAL CUSTOMER**