

Gull Lake Community Schools UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 1 Teacher Professional Development Day
- Sept. 2 No School for Staff/Students
- Sept. 5 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
- Sept. 6 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
Full Day of Classes
- Sept. 8 G.L. Band Parents Association
High School Band Room 7:00 pm
- Sept. 9 Blue Devil Football Benefit Game 7:00 pm
- Sept. 13 Kellogg Elementary PTO Meeting 6:30 pm
GL Community Schools Foundation
Meeting at Gull Lake High School 7:00 pm
- Sept. 14 Kellogg Elementary PICTURE DAY
- Sept. 15 Ryan Intermediate PTO Meeting 9:15 am
"Break the Grey" Concert @ GLHS 7:00 pm
(doors open at 6:00 pm)
- Sept. 16 Richland Elementary PICTURE DAY
- Sept. 17-18 GL Performing Arts Company
Stratford Trip
- Sept. 19 GLCS Board of Education Meeting
Ryan Intermediate Media Center 7:00 pm
- Sept. 23 Richland Elementary PTO Meeting 9:00 am
- Sept. 30 Ryan Intermediate RYAN RALLY
(Rally takes place during the school day)

Gull Lake Community Schools to Re-open Alternative School, Launch Virtual School and Partner with Home Schools



We are launching three new programs this coming school year. The new initiatives include a virtual school, a partnership with home-schools, and a newly re-opened alternative high school education program.



The Gull Lake Gateway Academy will reinstate alternative education in the district, operating from the central administration building with 14 to 16 students this year, all of whom will work toward a Gull Lake Gateway Academy diploma that meets Michigan Merit standards. We are proud to introduce you to Mrs. Lynnette Walker who will guide these young people through their Gateway Academy experience.



Lynnette Walker



The collaboration with home-schoolers started with Cindy Fadel of Battle Creek, who approached us in June on behalf of the home-school community. The result is the Gull Lake Home School Partnership, where home-schoolers enrolled at Gull Lake can take seated and online classes. A new Virtual School is a partnership between Gull Lake; JST Inc., a Detroit-area software company; and K-12 Online, a Virginia-based company that offers online classes.



The Gull Lake Virtual School will benefit many students, including homebound children, children too ill to attend school away from home, and students on a fast track to college. But home-school students may be the largest bunch of beneficiaries. Home-schoolers, by the hundreds, could be enrolled by the cutoff date of October 9, 2011

The three new programs are all about creating options and partnerships that benefit students. I would like to credit the Gull Lake Community School Board for listening to ideas for non-traditional learning methods that so many of today's students need and then going further and implementing all three of these initiatives.

We are looking at a paradigm shift that goes beyond bricks-and-mortar classrooms and changes to meet the needs of our students. We have to prepare our children for their future...not our past!

2011-12 will not only be a great year, but a year filled with excitement.

Chris Rundle, Superintendent
Gull Lake Community Schools



Welcome Back!

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Kalamazoo, MI
Permit No. 1581

BOARD OF EDUCATION

President
Jill Adamski

Vice President
Carole Mendez

Secretary
Jeff Brown

Treasurer
Jack Gesmundo

Trustee
Laura Burr

Trustee
Trey Eldridge

Trustee
Lin Marklin

SUPERINTENDENT
Christopher Rundle

**Gull Lake Board of Education
Expects an Exceptional Year!**



On behalf of the Gull Lake Board of Education, I'd like to welcome all of our staff and students back to school for the 2011-12 year. It definitely looks to be an exciting one! Already, most of our athletic teams have already started competing in our new conference, the Southwest Michigan Athletic Conference. Our administrative staff has been extremely busy this summer, developing and implementing new programs to serve more students



and help us achieve our district mission of educating every child to achieve their full potential. If you haven't heard about them already, you'll soon be hearing more about 3 impressive new programs – our home school partnership, our Virtual School and our Gull Lake Gateway Academy. Our maintenance staff has been working hard this summer and our facilities have never looked better. Staff and students will notice some significant technology improvements. Our

Community Education and Early Learning Center on 40th street offers a remarkable array of programs for our earliest learners and opportunities for parents to get their child's education off to the right start, and more enrichment programs than ever before. I suggest you become a regular visitor to our district website, www.gulllakecs.org, to stay informed. Of course, you can also check us out on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!

Your Board of Education is committed to leading this district through these tough economic times without letting our financial challenges affect the quality of education our students receive. It requires "thinking outside of the box" and being willing to be bold and decisive when presented with opportunities. We want to continue to expand opportunities for our students and as Superintendent Rundle is fond of saying, "prepare them for their future, not our past."

Jill Adamski, President
GLCS Board of Education



**Foundation Grateful
for Community Support**

The Gull Lake Community Schools Foundation greatly appreciates the ongoing generosity of the parents, staff, businesses and others in the community. Contributions during the 2010-2011 school year allowed the Foundation to:

- Award nearly 50 grants totaling \$56,000, benefiting students and staff in every building in the district.
- Honor the top 32 graduating students as Distinguished Academic Scholars and the Gull Lake teachers who most influenced them.
- Provide 26 scholarships to high school students for continued education.
- Award two James R. Ryan Family Foundation Scholarships of \$32,000 each to two middle schoolers for college.
- Administer 28 total scholarships, including seven new scholarships for 2010-2011.
- Offer students a variety of experiences including a 5th grade trip to Mackinac Island, Community Artreach, therapeutic riding program and Odyssey of the Mind.
- Purchase books, academic supplies, learning aids, literacy materials and media equipment.

Thank you so much for your ongoing generosity. The future begins here.

**BOARD COMMITTEE
ASSIGNMENTS**

Curriculum Lin Marklin, Chair Trey Eldridge Carole Mendez	Community Relations Carole Mendez, Chair Jill Adamski Trey Eldridge
Facilities Jill Adamski, Chair Trey Eldridge Jack Gesmundo	Negotiations/Personnel Jeff Brown, Chair Laura Burr Carole Mendez
Finance Jack Gesmundo, Chair Jeff Brown Laura Burr	Policy Laura Burr, Chair Jill Adamski Lin Marklin

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETINGS**

Parents and all other community members are encouraged to attend school board meetings on a regular basis. Meetings are held on the third Monday of every month at the Thomas M. Ryan Intermediate School Media Center at 7:00 pm, unless otherwise indicated.

Upon request to the superintendent, the district shall make reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities to be able to participate in the meetings. Official minutes of each school board meeting are available for public inspection at the Superintendent's office, 11775 East D. Avenue, Richland, Michigan 49083, or may be accessed on the school website, www.gulllakecs.org.

MEETING DATES:

September 19, 2011	February 20, 2012
October 17, 2011	March 19, 2012
November 21, 2011	April 16, 2012
December 19, 2011	May 21, 2012
January 16, 2012	June 18, 2012

**Upon request to the Superintendent, the District shall make reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities to be able to participate in this meeting.*

Gull Lake Community Schools Communicator is published monthly except July by Gull Lake Community Schools, 11775 East D Ave., Richland, Michigan 49083. Occasional special issues published as needed.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Gull Lake Community Schools is to educate every child to achieve his/her full potential.

VISION STATEMENT

The Gull Lake Community Schools, in partnership with all stakeholders, will create a culture of high expectations and accountability where each member of the school community is challenged and inspired.



INSTANT ALERT SYSTEM

The Gull Lake Community Schools has implemented the use of an INSTANT ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM from Honeywell. This system will allow Gull Lake Community Schools to contact parents when there are cancellations due to weather, illness, etc. It also allows GLCS to send out reminders about upcoming events. This system is integrated with our student information system. If your contact information is different in our student information database, it will prevent you from receiving the Instant Alerts. It is important to remember that if your phone number (cell, home, or work) or email address changes that you contact your child's building to have it updated in our system. On that same note, if you have a contact number in our records that you do NOT want to have contacted, please call your student's building to have that number removed. Besides just contacting parents, in case of an emergency, this system can send out a message to all contacts listed under a student's name. If you need to change the emergency contact information for your child, please contact the office and they will update that for you.

Secrets of Change



Nothing may be more important in the 21st century than learning to manage change. In his latest book, “Change Agent”

Michael Fullan draws from decades of experience in international education reform to reveal his own six secrets on managing change. These “secrets” are not so much great mysteries as deceptively simple truths, which, as Fullan says, are hard to grasp in-depth and extremely difficult to act on in combination. The challenge is to learn them and share them within your organization.

Secret One: Love Your Employees

Explore the importance of building the school by focusing on both the teachers and staff, and students and the community. The key is enabling staff to learn continuously. Evidence will be provided from successful business companies as well as from education. A new report from McKinsey & Company focusing on the top-performing school systems in the world provides the central reason why we must value employees (in this case, teachers) as much as customers (children and parents): “The quality of the education system cannot exceed the quality of its teachers” (Barber & Mourshed, 2007). Loving your employees means helping them all find meaning, develop their skills, and derive personal satisfaction from making contributions that simultaneously fulfill their own goals and the goals of the organization.

Secret Two: Connect Peers with Purpose

Purposeful peer interaction within the school is crucial. Student learning and achievement increase substantially when teachers work in learning communities supported by school leaders who focus on improvement. What is the optimal role of leadership in an organization? Focus an organization with sharp goals and tight accountability, and you get passive or alienated workers. Go for decentralized creativity, and you get drift and inertia. The key to achieving a simultaneously tight-loose

organization lies in purposeful peer interaction. In this model, leaders create the conditions for effective interaction and intervene when necessary but otherwise let the group find its own balance. Peer interaction is much more than mere collaboration; it is the social and intellectual glue of an organization.

Secret Three: Capacity Building Prevails

The most effective strategies involve helping teachers and principals develop the instructional and management of change skills necessary for school improvement. The role of assessment for learning is essential in order to link data on learning to instructional practices that achieve student results.

Problems get solved when people believe that they will not get punished for taking risks. Bullying is not a good way to motivate people. When it comes to complex tasks, capacity building always trumps judgmentalism. Individuals and groups are high in capacity if they are developing knowledge and skills; if they attract and use resources wisely; and if they are committed to getting important things done collectively and continuously. How do you work on capacity building? Start by attracting talented people and then help them develop, individually and collectively. In other words, leaders seek people who are not only individually talented but also system talented—that is, they can work within and keep developing cultures of purposeful collaboration.

Secret Four: Learning Is the Work

Professional development in workshops and courses is only an input to continuous learning and precision in teaching. Successful growth itself is accomplished when the culture of the school supports day-to-day learning of teachers engaged in improving what they do in the classroom and school. Organizations must consistently address their core tasks, while at the same time learning to improve what they do. Learning on the job, day after day, is the work. Workshops and courses won’t do the trick. In fact there is no trick: You can achieve consistency

and innovation only through deep and consistent learning in context.

Secret Five: Transparency Rules

The first reason that transparency rules is that it’s going to, whether we like it or not. Easy access to information means that the public’s appetite for accountability cannot be thwarted. The second reason it rules is that transparency is a good thing; in fact, it is essential to success. Yes, we all know that data can be misused. Public reporting of student results can lead to unfair or destructive actions. However, the alternatives—to keep information private or to refuse even to collect it—are neither acceptable nor useful. Effective organizations embrace transparency. We know that people will cover up problems if the culture punishes them. So one thing we must do is develop cultures in which it is normal to experience problems and solve them as they occur. When data are precise, presented in a nonjudgmental way, considered by peers, and used for improvement as well as for external accountability, they serve to balance pressure and support. Knowing that transparency is both inevitable and desirable for successful organizations makes it far less threatening.

Secret Six: Systems Learn

So how do systems learn? First, they focus on developing many leaders working in concert. A key reason why organizations fail to sustain learning is that they focus on individual leaders. As these leaders come and go, the company engages in episodic ups and downs. Second, systems learn when they are led by people who approach complexity with both humility and faith that effectiveness can be maximized under any circumstances. Leaders must be confident that they have considered all possibilities and have made the right choice under the circumstances, even though something may go wrong.

The best way to keep these secrets is to share them. If you practice these secrets, you are modeling them for others and developing more leaders who understand and use them. Implementing these strategies and developing new leaders become one and the same. Once you have a culture of leaders at all levels operating in this way, they reinforce each other as they go. By putting the secrets into action, you will inspire effective action from others.

Michael Fullan is Professor Emeritus at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto.

GOOD BYE AND GOOD LUCK, STEVE!



Congratulations to Steve Lewis on his decision to retire from Gull Lake Community Schools effective August 19th.

For the past 15 years, Steve has served Gull Lake Community Schools very well in our Buildings/Grounds/Maintenance Department. He has worked many long hours and has always been quick to lend a helping hand.

Steve had a huge heart for Gull Lake Community Schools and demonstrated his friendship to all when he stated, “It has been an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to serve with all of the employees this past 15 years, and just to know my small part in helping with the big picture, has been gratifying to me...It has truly been a pleasure and a memory that I will always cherish”.

We appreciate his dedication to the district and his willingness to make the students and staff of Gull Lake a priority. Thank YOU, Steve, for everything YOU have done for us – You will be missed!

Principal: Don Eastman • Assistant Principal: Sara Dirkse

Building Start Time 7:30 am • Building End Time 2:20 pm • 1/2 Day End Time- 11:00 am

Phone: 269-488-5020 | Fax: 269-488-5031



Kick-Off to a New School Year!

Welcome to the 2011-12 school year. I hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing summer and are anticipating the exciting opportunities that the school year will present at GLHS.

The staff at the High School has been busy preparing for the new school year with much of our effort

focused on our new information system called Pinnacle – Global Scholar. This new system should be a more user friendly system for teachers, enabling them to give more frequent updates for your student's grades to be viewed on-line.

Our teacher professional development time will once again be centered on collaborating for student success. Teachers will continue their focus on curriculum alignment, common exams, instructional best practice, and differentiated instruction. In addition, three new courses have been added to the offerings for high school students. An ACT prep class is offered for all Juniors to better prepare them for the ACT test. This course is offered in the second trimester and will finish right before the ACT test is given in March. Hopefully, this course will have a positive impact on your student's scores, thus better preparing them for college. Two new elective classes offered this year are Intro to Guitar and Multi-Media. These electives will allow students to explore their talents in new ways that we have not been able to previously offer.

We are excited to welcome two new staff members to the high school. Bobbi Jo Stoner and Lindsay Stoetzel are joining our team, coming from Gull Lake Middle School. We welcome Mrs. Stoner to our Counseling staff and Mrs. Stoetzel to our English Department.

As the new year begins, our staff will continue looking for ways to help every student reach their fullest potential. This cannot be accomplished without communication from parents. Please be sure to contact teachers, office staff, or myself with any concerns or student needs. Working together, we can ensure that the 2011-2012 school year finds us striving for academic excellence.

Don Eastman, Principal
Gull Lake High School

With August come the telltale signs of "Back to School." Newspaper ads highlight specials, store aisles are packed with supplies, fall sports are in full swing, and students are fervently soaking up the last days of summer vacation. As you read this article, your high school student has completed his/her orientation where each student received a class schedule and locker assignment, as well as had a picture taken for their school ID. The 2011-2012 school year is well under way and going to be a great year!

As students and parents prepare together for the coming year, keep in mind the following keys to success. Our goal at GLHS is to help every student reach his/her full potential, and a central piece to reaching that goal is student P.R.I.D.E in their high school career. We want to encourage our students to be Prepared for learning. This includes coming to school with appropriate clothing, and having necessary materials. GLHS students are Responsible for their behavior. The student handbook will be handed out and reviewed with students during Seminar on the second day of school. It is also important for students to demonstrate Integrity throughout their life and time at GLHS. Focusing on honesty and consideration for others helps to create a safe environment centered on learning. Showing Dedication toward attendance and grades is also key to a successful high school career. Most importantly we want GLHS students to strive for Excellence, by putting forth their best effort each day.

As a staff, we will work to teach, encourage, and support students in learning these keys to success. As a way to further highlight and showcase students who exhibit such behavior and qualities, GLHS will be recognizing "Students of the Month" starting in October, and every month thereafter.

Last but not least, perhaps the biggest key to success is communication. Communication is a two way conversation and I encourage you and your student to communicate his/her needs to teachers and staff. Make use of the new student information system, Pinnacle, and the GLHS website to stay current and up-to-date on assignments and information. Look for more timely updates on grades and attendance, and new information posted on the website throughout the year. I am looking forward to the start of another great year! Please do not hesitate to contact me any time throughout the year with questions or concerns!

Sara Dirkse, Assistant Principal
Gull Lake High School

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS OF GULL LAKE HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Please plan to attend our first

2012 GRAD BASH Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 20th, 2011

at the Blackhawk Restaurant on M-43 at 6:30 pm.

Help us make this a night of memories for our graduates!

If you have any questions, please contact Judy Way at
richlandways@gmail.com

A NOTE FROM YOUR TRANSPORTATION DEPT.

– First Day of School –



Please be aware that on the first day of school, buses leave the school buildings late. You should allow, up to 20-minutes past the drop-off time indicated on your postcard, before contacting the Transportation Department.

Thank you for understanding that in the first week of school our drivers will also be getting used to their new routes and all the new smiling faces. Your patience is appreciated.

- Leslie Brooks, Gull Lake Community Schools Transportation Supervisor

Principal: David Alban • Assistant Principal: Jack Boerman

Building Start Time: 7:40 am • Building End Time: 2:30 pm • ½ Day End Time: 11:10 am

Phone: (269) 488-5040 | Fax: (269) 488-5051



Great Year Ahead for Gull Lake Middle School



The school doors are open and bells are serenading our hallways once again as the school year 2011-2012 begins. Over 670 students are learning new lockers, schedules, and subjects. Even with this newness, many students will recognize many familiar faces. For our new students to GLMS, we have friendly and helpful staff and students that will help them become familiar with the school quickly.

We are proud to announce the addition of three new employees to the Middle School this fall. Mrs. Amy Bower has joined our staff after being at Ryan Intermediate last year. She will be teaching some math and science classes. Mrs. Kim Ditto will be the new middle school counselor, replacing Bobbi Jo Stoner who has transferred to the high school. In addition, Mrs. Ashley Copp who taught in Charlotte last year will be teaching several ELA classes. We are delighted to have them as part of our school family.

The beauty of this time of year is that everyone starts with a clean slate and has the potential to have a highly successful year. Our desire is for each of our students to reach to new levels of achievement. I would like to encourage parents to help their child meet this goal. Use our website as a means to find information pertaining to the school and classes. Communication can take place in a variety of ways including phone or email. Although we will not be using Edline this year, Pinnacle is taking its place which will give parents the ability to view the progress of their children in classes. I would encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities.

We are happy to have our students back and look forward to taking them to greater heights of success.



Ashley
Copp

Getting to Know Our Webpage

One of the ways that we want to get information out to people is through our webpage. There are a few features that we wanted you to know about the webpage to better assist you in getting information. There are several tabs that will guide you to the information.

Home

The home page provides an overview of the school and includes shortcuts to important items including the home page for the Michigan curriculum standards and advisory information.

General Information

This page provides a brief background on the building administrators.

News/Information

The News/Information page provides information such as our annual report, MiBLSi/Advisory FAQs, supplies list, and summer camp information.

Our announcements are posted daily and are available for viewing for a week. An overview of our student expectations is also available for viewing on this page. You may also view our handbook and newsletters by going to the tab and selecting the appropriate item.

Teachers (This page is especially useful to parents and students)

For personal contact with a teacher or access to the teacher's webpage. Along with their biographical information, teachers use these pages to keep you informed of what things are taking place in their classrooms. Many teachers post assignments, handouts, and upcoming events. We encourage parents to look at both the teacher's webpage and Pinnacle (coming soon) to get information on their child's classes.

Guidance Department

Our guidance department has many resources to help parents and students throughout their time at GLMS. This page provides helpful articles and links about student success, volunteer programs, and careers as well as forms and handouts that the department uses.

Media Center

Our media center page has many resources available for students including a search engines for research, a virtual reference library for requesting books, and links to other libraries. The media center also has a blog giving information on book recommendations and other activities taking place such as the book fair.

Athletics and Clubs

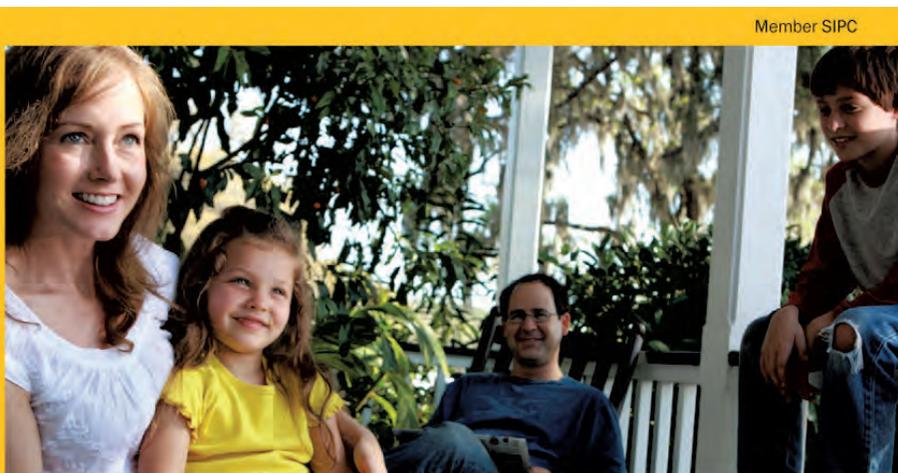
The athletic page gives information pertaining to various sporting activities including schedules and forms. Summer camp information is also available on this webpage. Ski Club information is available under Clubs.

Parents

Under this tab, you will find access to the Honeywell Instant Alert which is an automated phone system that will call you when important events take place in the district including school closings, delays, and special events. Parents should revise their contact information to get these alerts.

Shortly, you will be able to access Pinnacle, our new online grading system, which gives access to your child's progress in classes. A lunch menu is also available.

We encourage you to tour our website and familiarize yourself with the various information we offer.



Member SIPC

College or retirement? Find out how to afford both.

Lori A Nay Tomlinson
Financial Advisor

8599 N 32 ND Street
Richland, MI 49083
269-629-4270
www.edwardjones.com

Edward Jones®
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Welcome Back, Thomas M. Ryan Students!

We are very excited about getting our TEAM back together for another great school year.

We are looking forward to our second year as the 3-5 Intermediate School. This year one of our building goals will be to continue growing leaders. Many of our teachers this summer spent time reading and learning more about Stephen R. Covey's book The Leader in Me. The premise of the book is by learning the interests and strengths of all of our students, we can help them tap into their unique qualities and teach them to become leaders of their own talents. One of the ways we will continue our work of growing leaders is through our Student Council. We are looking for interested parents that can volunteer some of their time to lead a Student Council committee. Last year we had over 64 students involved in a Student Council committee and we hope to increase the amount of committees, but need your help. If you are passionate about something that you feel could help our young students and are able to donate a little time through-out the year please contact Mrs. McCaw at (269) 488-5060. (Examples of committees could be: social service projects, journalism, creative writing, math, photography, music, computers, athletics, and so much more!)

Ryan PTO

This year's PTO Board Members include: Carrie Klinger, President; Sherri Donovan, Vice President;

Carrie Campbell, Treasurer; and Sue Blesch, Secretary. The meetings take place on the third Thursday of each month at 9:15 in the Ryan Multi-Purpose Room. Please feel free to come and be a voice for your school. If you are unable to attend the morning session, please contact our school office at 488-5060 and we will direct you to the appropriate contacts.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our annual Ryan Rally! This year's Ryan Rally will be held on September 30, 2011. This is the only PTO sponsored fundraiser of the school year and is always a great time for our students and families. Students gather pledges for the number of laps they complete at our school track and earn money for our school at the same time. It's a Win-Win for everyone!

TEAM Ryan

Families, do you remember our school motto? Please take some time to review our TEAM Ryan expectations with your child before our first day back to school. Together we can create a positive winning TEAM!

- T=Treat Others with Kindness & Respect
- E=Excellent Attitude
- A=Act Responsibly
- M=Make Safe Choices

Pick-up and Drop-off at Thomas M. Ryan

Parents, for our students' safety please read the following:

Drop off procedures: Please read and follow the drop off zone signs that

were added last year in the Ryan parking lot. All cars are to drive along the curb of the Ryan sidewalk and pull as far forward as possible before letting their child out. Once your child is safely out of the car please exit the drop-off zone so we can keep our line moving in a timely manner. PLEASE do not park your car and have your child walk across the parking lot unattended. If you choose to park your car, please use designated parking spaces and walk with your child to the Ryan sidewalk. Students are not to be dropped off before 8:35, since we do not have proper supervision for

them at that time.

Pick-up procedures: All students being picked up at the end of the day will proceed to our gymnasium at the end of our school day. Our school day ends at 3:40. Parents are to sign their child out each day they pick them up. Please be sure that the office has been notified if your child is to be picked up before 3:15 of each day. If your child is a regular pick-up student, you can write one letter stating that for the year. Please be sure that the office has all of the family members' names that have permission to pick up your child.

We thank you for your cooperation!

To see a Virtual Tour Sample, Log onto:
www.virtualtour05.com

Everything you need to know about our virtual tour homes is just a click away.



Look for properties displaying the Virtual Tour Star, then enter the address shown beneath it.

What could be Faster or Easier?

BOBIS
REALTORS
269-629-5612

Farley
ESTES & DOWDLE
RICHLAND CHAPEL

9170 East D Avenue, Richland, MI
269-629-6022 • info@farleyestesdowdle.com

Charlie Johnson – Manager
Ross Schimmel Jon Barnes John Dowdle Andy Emerson



News from Richland Elementary

Building Start Time: 8:55 am • Building End Time: 3:50 pm • ½ Day End Time: 12:30 pm

Phone: 269-488-5080 | Fax: 269-488-5081

Principal: Rob Woodrow

Welcome Back, Richland Elementary Friends & Family!



I hope you have had a fun filled and restful summer. (Seems like it went by in a flash) I am looking forward with enthusiasm to another new school year. As always, our focus will be on student achievement and providing your child with the best school experience possible. As we begin the new school year I would like to remind parents of a few important dates to put on your calendar at home.

- Student Pictures will be held on Friday Sept 16.
- First PTO meeting will Sept 23 at 9 am in Rm 120.
- The district's first early release date is scheduled for Oct 5
- Picture Retakes are scheduled for October 18

If you have further questions please make sure to call Richland Elementary at 488-5080 or feel free to stop in and visit with me. Once again I am looking forward to a fantastic start to the school year.

Rob Woodrow, Principal
Richland Elementary School



News from Kellogg Elementary

Building Start Time: 9:00 am • Building End Time: 3:50 pm • ½ Day End Time: 12:30 pm

Phone: 269-488-5070 • Fax: 269-488-5071

Principal: Debi Linden

Young Five AM class - Start Time: 9:00 am End Time: 12:05 pm

Young Five PM class - Start Time: 12:45 pm End Time: 3:50 pm

Welcome Back!



Whether you are new to Kellogg Elementary or returning from a much needed summer break the staff of Kellogg Elementary is looking forward to

working with you and your children. The new year will bring with it new challenges and many new rewards. There will be new friends to meet, new books to read, and new skills to master.

We hope you enjoyed our curriculum night/open house evening, and found it informational, and fun. It's always enjoyable to see the excitement in the children as they return to school. We're off to a great start!

September Events:

Picture Day September 14

P.T.O. meeting September 13, 6:30 p.m. (tentative)

Debi Linden, Principal
Kellogg Elementary School

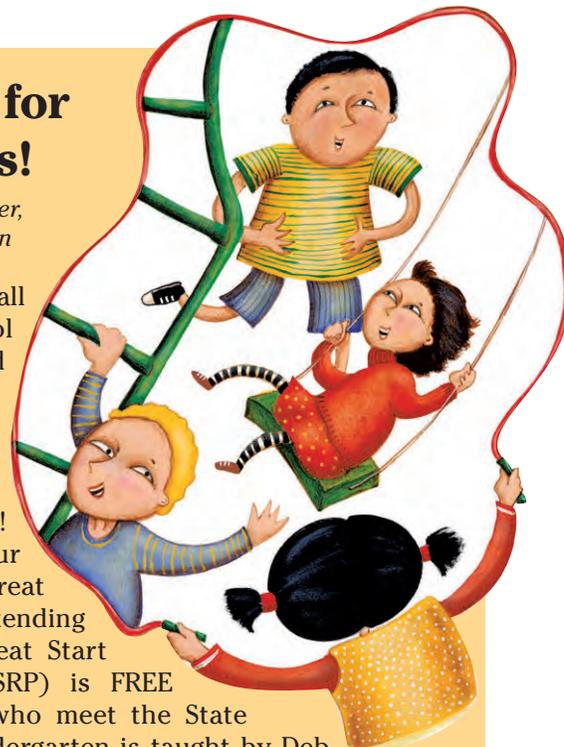


Great Start for Great Kids!

By Deb Loudon, Teacher,
Gull Lake Beginnergarten

Welcome back to all Teachers, School Employees, and Students! And a BIG welcome to our smallest Gull Lake students who may be having their very first school experience! Four-year-olds in our district can receive a Great Start to school by attending Beginnergarten. Our Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) is FREE preschool for families who meet the State eligibility factors. Beginnergarten is taught by Deb Loudon, certified Preschool Teacher, along with 1 or 2 Paraprofessionals depending on class size.

We wish everyone a Great Start to the 2011-2012 school year!



Gull Lake Teachers Enjoy Hands on Science This Summer at KBS!

By: Jennifer Boyle GLMS Science Department Chair

Gull Lake Science teachers Deb Kilmartin, Kari Freling, Bev Brown, Kim Clancy and Jennifer Boyle worked with graduate fellows and science teachers from around the region to conduct outdoor investigations and learn more about integrating outdoor, experiential learning into the classroom environment. According to Bev and Kari, who teach elementary students at Kellogg, "We are looking forward to getting our students outside and engaging them in real authentic learning experiences." Teachers were involved in several teaching units, including Biodiversity, Carbon and Water. Several issues will also be explored by students whose teachers are piloting these units including pollination, carrying capacity, natural selection, predator/prey relationships, nutrients in the soil, and identifying soil types. Teachers enjoyed exploring MSU sites in the area including Lux Arbor Reserve, the Bird Sanctuary, and the KBS LTER (Long Term Ecological Research) site. This was a great way to energize our summer!

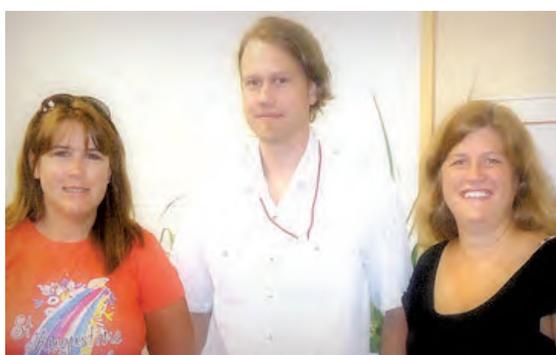
In addition to the Summer Institute, the MSU Kellogg Biological Station research is also working with

school districts in the area to implement LTER sites at individual schools. These plots are called BeST plots or Bioenergy Sustainability Test plots. Schools included in the 5 year research plan are Harper Creek, Delton Kellogg, Plainwell, Gobles, Olivet, Comstock, Lawton, Vicksburg, Galesburg Augusta, Martin, Hastings, Parchment and Gull Lake Middle School. If you have seen the plots on the east side of the Middle School as you drive into the back of the Middle School or Ryan Intermediate, you may have wondered "What is that?" These are plots that students will conduct various experiments within over several years. The data will be collected by all schools involved in the study and compared throughout the course of the research by scientists at KBS. Students will be growing different treatments of switchgrass and native prairie as potential

sources of biofuel energy.

At Gull Lake Middle School, Mrs. Kim Clancy and Mrs. Jennifer Boyle are going to be fortunate enough to have a Graduate Fellow from MSU, Tyler Bassett to assist them with the BeST plots, advise on the Outdoor Classroom, and assist in hands on learning opportunities throughout the district. Tyler was born in Holland, MI, and lives in Kalamazoo since attending Western Michigan University, from where he received a Bachelor of Science in 2000. Since that time, he

has worked as a botanist and restoration ecologist at the Kalamazoo Nature Center, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, and Native Connections. He began his PhD at Michigan State and the Kellogg Biological Station in Fall 2009, and he is studying the relationship between plant species diversity and ecosystem function, especially as it relates to habitat restoration and conservation. He lives in Kalamazoo with his wife, Jenny, an outdoor science educator, and his daughter, Fen (9) and son Zak (12). We in the GLMS Science Department welcome Tyler and his invaluable research experience and knowledge. We feel confident that Tyler will collaborate with the GLMS Science Department to increase student engagement and learning, especially as it concerns outdoor and experiential learning.



MSU Kellogg Biological Station—Events

Academic Center

Tue, Sep 20 **Dessert with Discussion** 7:30 pm
Michigan Cheese & Artisan Cheese Makers, Dr. John Partridge, MSU

Call 269-671-2263 or e-mail communityrelations@kbs.msu.edu.

Kellogg Manor House

Wed, Sep 21 **Docent Training**, Session I 9:30-11:30 am
Wed, Sep 28 **Docent Training**, Session II 9:30-11:30 am
Sun, Oct 2 **Share the Harvest** 1-5 pm

Call 269-671-2160 or e-mail manorhouse@kbs.msu.edu.

Kellogg Farm & Dairy Center

Wed, Sep 14 **Pasture Dairy Center Tour**, Free Admission 3-8 pm
Fri, Sep 16 **Tour Guide Training** 9 am-noon
Sun, Oct 2 **Share the Harvest** 1-5 pm

Call 269-671-2360 or e-mail pasture.dairy@kbs.msu.edu.

Kellogg Bird Sanctuary

Wed, Sep 14 **Birds & Beans** 8:30-10 am
Sat, Sep 24 **Fall Birding**, Session I (Three Sessions) 9am-noon
Sat, Sep 24 **Birds of Prey—Live** 1-2:30 pm
Sun, Oct 2 **Share the Harvest** 1-5 pm

Call 269-671-2510 or e-mail birdsantuary@kbs.msu.edu.

www.kbs.msu.edu

Sherman Lake YMCA After School Program for Grades 5 – 8



Fridays at Sherman Lake YMCA

Transportation to the Y provided by GLCS Transportation Dept./parents pick-up. Activities include climbing wall, swimming, team sports, indoor and outdoor games. Program led by trained SLYMCA staff.

Fridays for 6 weeks, \$60 per session
Session 1: 9/23/11-11/4/11 (No class on 10/21)
After School until 6 pm

Visit www.gulllakecs.org to register on-line!



New Community Education offerings at Bedford Community/Family Learning Center!

Young Rembrandts Preschool Art This fall, Young Rembrandts introduces drawing lessons that will challenge and excite your budding artist. Learning to draw basic shapes is an essential building block for every learner. Young Rembrandts drawings like the marbles will introduce your preschooler to the art of creating a circle, a deceptively simple yet complex shape. Detailed lessons like the acorn and seasonal fall leaves will strengthen your child's compositional skills and use of colors. Basic facial and figure drawing will also be addressed as our students learn to draw a funny clown and scarecrow. These are just a few of the many great lessons our students will learn.

\$80 per 8 wk session
Fridays 2pm-4pm
Session 1: 9/23/11-11/18/11 (No class 10/21)

Cardio and Body Sculpt Join the fun of simple cardio along with structured body sculpt to tone, lift, and shape up! Local Gym Instructor, Kelly Morcombe, will teach you isolation techniques that you can do at home to continue your fitness success! All students should bring a mat for stretching and hand weights if you have them.

\$48 per person per 4 week session
Tuesdays and Thursdays 6pm-7pm
Session 1: 9/20/11-10/13/11
Session 2: 10/25/11-11/17/11

MICRO KICKERS SOCCER (AGES 2 & 3) This six week program is designed to build confidence through stimulating activities in KIC's safe, family friendly environment. Micro Kickers helps boys and girls explore their interests while building self esteem. Adult companion required. Bring a size 4 soccer ball.

Classes held weekly for six weeks.
Wednesdays 1pm-1:55pm
9/28/11-11/2/11

MINI KICKERS SOCCER (AGES 4 & 5) This six week program is a fun, age-appropriate, professionally-guided introduction to the game of soccer. Boys and girls play and learn, building a strong foundation of proper kicking, dribbling and ball-handling skills in KIC's safe, family-friendly environment. Bring a size 3 soccer ball.

Classes are held weekly for six weeks.
Wednesdays 2pm-2:55pm
9/28/11-11/2/11

Enrichment & Recreation

See a complete list of our Enrichment Classes and register online through PaySchools at www.gulllakecs.org.

For more information about any of our programs or to be put on our email list for reminders, events, and new classes, call 488.5018 or email kmorcombe@gulllakecs.org!

- September 6** Gymboree Classes at W.K.K.
- September 7** GLELCP Parent Meeting, 7pm W.K. K. Gymboree Classes at W.K.K.
- September 9** GLELCP Class Open House 9-11am
- September 10** Autumn at Birch Run
Session 7 Swim Lessons at YMCA
- September 12** First Day of Preschool (4yr olds)
Men's Open Basketball at Kellogg
- September 13** First Day of Preschool (3yr olds)
Co-Ed Volleyball at Ryan
- September 19** Sanchin-Ryu at W.K.K.
Ozark Legacy
- September 20** Cardio & Body Sculpt at Bedford
Step Aerobics at W.K. K.
- September 21** Young Rembrandts at Kellogg
Beginning Ballroom
- September 22** Cheer America at Ryan
- September 23** Fridays at Sherman Lake YMCA
- September 24** Kingdom Sports Saturday Classes
- September 26** Young Rembrandts Preschool at W.K.K.
Kingdom Sports Monday Classes
- September 27** Young Rembrandts at Richland
Kingdom Sports Tuesday Classes
- September 28** Micro/Mini Kickers at Bedford
Kingdom Sports Wednesday Classes
- September 29** Young Rembrandts at Ryan
AACC Parent Meeting at W.K.K.
- September 30** Kingdom Sports Friday Classes



Free 4 Year old Preschool! Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) *Beginnergarten*

Preschool for children turning 4 years old by December 1st. Applications now available! Call 488-5000 x1025 or email louden@gulllakecs.org for more information!

Gull Lake Early Learning Center Preschool For 3 and 4 year olds ~ NOW ENROLLING!

Children must be at least 33 months and potty trained to enroll. Classes for 3 year olds meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30-11am. Classes for 4 year olds meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Call 488-5018 or kmorcombe@gulllakecs.org for enrollment information.

Making Connections For School Readiness (Birth - 5 years old)

For more information and playgroup schedule, please call Mary at 488-5000 x 1024 or email mzavitz@gulllakecs.org.

Added Advantage Child Care

Now enrolling for Before and After, All-Day Care, and Wrap-Around Care for ages 33 months through 15 years old! Curriculum based programs in a fun, relaxed environment, AACC is here to meet your childcare needs. We are open 6:30am-6pm. Call now to reserve your spot at 488.5018 or kmorcombe@gulllakecs.org!

Other great class options...

Zumba®! The Zumba® program fuses hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow moves to create a one-of-a-kind fitness program that will blow you away. Our goal is simple: We want you to want to work out, to love working out, to get hooked. Zumba® Fanatics achieve long-term benefits while experiencing an absolute blast of calorie-burning, body-energizing, awe-inspiring movements meant to engage and captivate for life! The routines feature interval training sessions where fast and slow rhythms training are combined to tone and sculpt your body while burning fat. Everyone can do this, no dance skills required!

\$48 per person per 6 week session
Mondays 4:15-5pm
Session 1: 9/19/11-10/24/11
Instructor: Sandy Ellis, Licensed Zumba® Instructor
Middle School Cafeteria

Fridays at Sherman Lake YMCA Transportation provided by GLCS Transportation Dept. (parents pick-up). The Sherman Lake YMCA is committed to nurturing the potential of kids, promoting healthy living and fostering a sense of social responsibility. We believe lasting personal and social change can only come about when we work together to invest in our children. To that end, we will offer a structured program for fifth grade and middle school students, activities to include climbing wall, swimming, team sports, homework help, indoor and outdoor games. Programming will be led by trained SLYMCA staff, demonstrating the four core principals of the YMCA – Honesty, Caring, Respect, & Responsibility.

\$60 per session
Fridays for 6 week sessions, after school until 6pm
Session 1: 9/23/11-11/4/11 (No class on 10/21)
Session 2: 1/13/12-2/17/12
Session 3: 2/24/12-4/20/12 (No class on 3/16, 3/30, 4/6)
Session 4: 4/27/12-6/1/12

Nurturing From the HeART~ An expressive arts approach to parenting

Nurturing From the HeART is a program for parents, caregivers and their children to bond together with music and the arts. In a supportive environment this series focuses on the expressive arts (music, art, storytelling, movement, and writing) as a way to play with children and gives caregivers skills for stress reduction and gentle parenting techniques.

Lullaby ~ A five week class for newborns through 14 months and their care provider

Class One~The Rhythm of Life An exploration of how the rhythms of daily life strengthens language and physical development. Songs, movement with music, the importance of "parentese", reading stories dramatically, etc. **Class Two~True Colors** With play songs, dancing, telling stories and singing we will use bright colored scarves to explore the joys of our colorful world. **Class Three~You Rock My World** Lullabies for rocking a baby to sleep, dance and movement together, creating rituals and routines. **Class Four~Learning While Moving** Learning through musical games, finger plays and dance/movement. **Class Five~The Beauty of You, the Beauty of Me, the Beauty of Us** Staying positive and finding the beauty in every moment. Building healthy relationships with the arts.

\$45.00 for 5 weeks
(scholarships available for those who are WIC eligible)
Thursdays 10/6/11-11/3/11 11am - 12pm
W.K. Kellogg Agricultural School

WOODFIELD MALL AND IKEA SHOPPING EXCURSION

Saturday, November 12, 2011 \$59.00
 There's almost too much to see at this enormous shopping mall complex in Schaumburg, IL. 290 stores await our exploration, as well as the new IKEA store. Restaurants and theaters abound. Call 488-5018 for more information.

Gull Lake Community Education
9500 N. 40th Street, Hickory Corners, MI 49060

News from Richland Township

The joint Board of Trustees of Richland Township and Richland Village moved to develop a millage request to fund the repair, upgrade and maintenance of the Richland Community Hall. This millage request will be on the



August or November 2012 election ballot. The Board will meet September 21, 2011 to establish the specifics of the millage request.

Reminder – Township Taxes are due in the office Sept 14 or penalty and interest will be assessed. If you have refinanced or purchased your property in the past 120 days and your taxes should be paid by a mortgage company or title company, I suggest you call the office to verify that the bill was paid.

If you need your tax bill to be sent to a “winter “ address, please notify the office before November 1 so we can change the mailing address.

Marsha Drouin – Treasurer



Have you ever wanted to be a Fire Fighter? Richland Township is looking for a “few good men and women” to answer the call! We will be providing a Firefighter School starting soon. Call Richland Township office for details at 629-4921.



Rotarians Name New President For Local Chapter

Peter Graham is the President of the Gull Lake Area Rotary Club for 2011-2012. He has been a Rotarian for five years. Before becoming President, he was Chair of the Membership Committee. As President, he leads the club’s efforts to serve the community – particularly its young people. The club also is involved in several world projects such as clean water and eradication of Polio. Pete is a retired social sciences teacher, having taught in the Kalamazoo Public Schools for 30 years – 16 of which were at Kalamazoo Central High School.

Pete was active in Richland Village government for many years. He served as President, Council Trustee, Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals, and Village Treasurer. He is a U.S. Army veteran and holds a BS from Eastern Michigan University and a MA from Western Michigan University.

He and his wife, Rusty, have two sons and six grandchildren.

Rotary is an international organization of people who seek to serve to make their communities and the world better. The Gull Lake Area Rotary Club meets at 7:30 am on Thursdays at the Richland Area Community Center on CD Avenue in Richland. Our meetings are open to anyone and we welcome visitors.

ADVERTISE IN THE COMMUNICATOR!

269.488.5000 ext 1004

or bkuepfer@gulllakecs.org

for more information

WELCOME BACK BLUE DEVILS!

for the 2011-2012 School Year!



from the Teachers of Gull Lake

GULL LAKE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



GET HITCHED WITH ASA

Ross Herrick

79 10th Street • Plainwell, Michigan 49080

Phone: 269.685.2189 • Fax: 269.685.2365

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9:00-6:00 • Sat. By Appointment

email: asatrucks@asatrucks.com • web: www.asatrucks.com

Community & All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner



to be served at
The Gull Lake High School
7753 North 34th Street, Richland

Monday, October 3 & Tuesday, October 4, 2011
5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

★ Carry Out Available ★

Minimum Donation
Adult: \$10.00, Children (5-12): \$5.00,
Kids under 5 eat **FREE!**

Special Attractions

★ Entertainment

★ Italian Street Fair

★ VIP Tables Available

Tickets are available from any member of Gull Lake Area Rotary Club or at the following locations: Biggby Coffee (on Gull Road), Richland Area Community Center (in Richland), Little Yellow Frame Shop & Gallery (in Richland), Prudential Realtors (in Richland), or Fifth Third Bank (in Richland).

Notes from the Nursing Station



Joni Knapper RN, BSN
Gull Lake Schools
District Nurse
488-5020, ext. 1512

As we begin the new school year, I want to remind families that Gull Lake Community Schools has participated in vulnerability assessments and crisis education through the county. We hope that we will never have to use these crisis plans, but a great deal of effort has been put into preparation, in the unlikely event of a disaster. Should an emergency or disaster occur while school is in session, a detailed disaster plan has been developed with the safety of your student(s) given the highest priority.

Your cooperation in emergencies is necessary. Please review the following and discuss them with your family. Planning ahead will help alleviate concern and confusion during emergencies.

- Emergency announcements will be disseminated through all means available to this school district including radio, television and other electronic means.
- DO NOT telephone the school. Telephone lines must remain open for emergency communications.
- The decision to keep students at school will be determined on what is safest for your child.
- In event of a serious emergency, students will be kept at their schools until they are picked up by parent or an identified, responsible adult. This person will be identified by emergency information provided by parents. Students will ONLY be released to parents and persons identified on emergency forms. Students will be released at designated reunion locations on the school campus.
- In case of a situation where Lockdown or Shelter in Place procedure is in effect, signs will be posted on exterior entrance doors. Students will not be released until it is deemed safe.
- School transportation:
- Event occurs during morning pickup. Students on the bus will be taken to school, others waiting will remain at home and responsibility of parents.
- Event occurs during afternoon delivery. Routes will be completed if safe. If unable then students will be taken to nearest safe school building and pickup information will be disseminated.

Please impress upon your student(s) the need to follow directions of school personnel at all times, but especially in times of emergency. I am available for questions and concerns at 488-5020, x. 1512. Thank you and have a safe year!

SAJO'S PIZZA

(269)629-5832

- UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP -

Updated Menu • Dine In • Take Out • Delivery



STUDENTS!
FREE Medium Drink

(with a \$5 purchase or more-just show your school ID)

HAVING A PARTY?
Take 15% OFF entire bill!*

(order must exceed \$100)

HAPPY HOUR!
14" One Topping Only \$7.99*

(from 2-4 & after 9pm, Sun-Thurs.)

LARGE PIZZA SLICES!
Only \$2.50
(11-2, M-F)

Specials cannot be combined with any other specials, prices are off regular menu items.

Break the Grey Coming to Gull Lake Area Schools

– September 12-15, 2011 –

Local community member Maria Gesmundo, the Local Event Coordinator of a locally known and successful program entitled, "Break the Grey" has arranged, through a partnership with the Sherman Lake YMCA and Gull Lake Community Schools, to present this amazing, thought provoking program to Gull Lake High School, Middle School and Gateway Academy students as well as neighboring schools, the week of September 12-15th, 2011. The following is her open invitation to all residents of Gull Lake Community Schools.

Dear Gull Lake Students of Middle School, High School and Gateway Academy,

"Break the Grey" is a multi-media assembly and concert event designed to promote character development and to assist teens struggling with issues of self worth, bullying, depression, suicide, drugs and alcohol abuse. "Break the Grey" was founded by recording artist and

motivational speaker, Bill Ballenger, whose life choices took him to rock bottom, and then inspired him to turn around and help America's schools challenge teens to make better choices than he did. Bill



shares his experiences and learning about choices – the good and the bad - and their consequences. "Break the Grey" has an immediate impact on youth during the assembly, helping them understand how valuable they are and that it is possible to

reach their dreams no matter what their situations are today!

Gull Lake High School is hosting their evening concert on Thursday, September 15th at 7pm in the gymnasium. Doors open at 6 pm. A local



band from our Richland area, Slingstone Apostle, will be opening for BALLENGER. Other participating schools also hosting assemblies through-out the week are: Parchment, Comstock, Galesburg-Augusta, and Climax Scotts. Free tickets can be picked up at Cabina's: 9975 M-89, Richland, MI, the week of the event. Free tickets will also be given out at all assemblies.

"What kind of community do you want to live in? I want to live in the kind of community that cares for its children, seniors, and those in trouble."

This was a question asked and responded to by Jill Adamski, our Gull Lake Community Schools Board President in the Gull Lake Communicator, April 2011 issue. It inspired me and I recommend reading it if you haven't already. Not my kid you say? I was one of those kids who came from an amazing family and yet made some poor choices as a teenager. Those choices haunted me for many years. I became involved with "Break the Grey" after attending the Barry County assemblies and concert. The message moved me so much that I felt passionate about doing something to bring it to the schools in our area.

We live in an awesome community where families really care about their children, their education, and their life experiences. We also need to care about the success of all children in our community - because that is the

kind of community we aspire to be! As Jill asks, "What kind of community do you want to live in?" I respond by saying – Please, let's pull together our resources to help all our young people make better choices and in so doing, uplift and even save as many lives as we can! How many of you know at least one person under the age of 21 who has died or suffered greatly from a poor choice?

In light of these important concerns related to the welfare of our young people, I am so excited to see the people in our community, local organizations and churches uniting to bring this message of hope to our teenagers and to help them understand how valuable they are and the importance of the choices they make.

The Sherman Lake YMCA is partnering with us to collect and disperse the donations that must be raised to bring "Break the Grey" into our area. They are also housing and feeding the "Break the Grey" team. We are thankful for their shared vision to help our community youth! Please help us fund this outstanding youth development and awareness event. We need your support! Believe me your donation will make a difference!

SEND ALL DONATIONS TO:

Sherman Lake YMCA –
Gull Lake Area Break the Grey
6225 N. 39th St.
Augusta, Mi 49012

(checks payable to: Sherman Lake YMCA-Break the Grey Gull Lake. All donations are tax deductible.)

If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, contact Maria N. Gesmundo, 269-312-2395; ps91007@yahoo.com

For more information on "Break the Grey", and Bill Ballenger, go to www.breakthegrey.com and view video testimonials from principals in many of our surrounding areas, such as Battle Creek, Barry County Schools, Paw Paw, Jackson, and Hillsdale. "Break the Grey" is also coming soon to the Three Rivers, Otsego, and Kalamazoo/Portage areas.

Students Become 'Ambassadors of Music'

By: Haley Smith

Every two years Gull Lake High School Band Director Floy Latham nominates students to participate in the Southern Michigan Ambassadors of Music. The Ambassadors of Music is an organization that sends groups of band and choir students from all over the United States to six different European countries to perform. Gull Lake High School has participated so far in the 2007, 2009 and 2011 tours. For the 2011 tour Tanner Hostetler, Zoey Rose, Aija Rozentals, Josh Shivley, Dani Smith, Hayley Smith, Sarah Thoman, and Brian Whaley participated. Two parents, Charmaine Hostetler and Cathy Smith, also went on the tour. All eight students participated in both the band and the choir. The group consisted of 112 students, 21 staff members, and 36 parents and family members from all over Southwest Michigan.



The band and choir met at Mattawan High School July 8-10 to practice their music. The whole group left for its 16-day tour on July 12th. The first stop on the trip was London. From there they visited France, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Italy and Germany. When asked what their favorite country was, everyone would say Switzerland because the people there loved the music and the students. The group performed a total of five band and choir concerts in Europe and one in America. At the concerts the students got to see how music is a universal language. Along the way all eight students gained new experiences, friends and lessons that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Football: "It's more than a game"



Dear Blue Devil Football Fans,

I want to take a moment to personally thank you for your support of the Gull Lake High School football program. The excitement is building! The backing of parents, family members, and our community is an essential ingredient in our success each year. You are an important part of our team!

We are striving daily to build a program centered on developing young men into successful leaders, constructed on the firm foundation of: academic success, character, hard work, and service. Thank you for sharing in that vision and

partnering with our football program. Our young men have had a good summer so far, and things are beginning to take shape for a great 2011 campaign.

I want to invite all of you to attend two special events as we begin our 2011 season. The first is "Blue Devil Bash" on Friday, August 26th for the home opener against Otsego. There will be a large pre-game tailgate party in the north end of our stadium, with several Richland-area businesses each hosting their own tent. Be sure to come early as there will be food, games, give-away items, and more before our 7:00PM kick-off. We hope you will join us! A special thanks to our All-Sports Boosters on making this possible!

I also want to make sure you don't miss "Blue Devil Benefit" on Friday, September 9th. It will be "More Than A Game" as we take on South Haven and also fight for a cure for cancer. "Blue Devil Benefit" t-shirts are already on sale for \$10 and your shirt is your admission to the game on the 9th! Wear it proudly as our community unites for this great cause! There will also be other fundraising opportunities during the game, as well as a survivor's walk and tribute at half-time. All proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society. Questions can be emailed to bluedevilbenefit@gmail.com or find our event on Facebook by searching keyword "Blue Devil Benefit."

As a coach, I am always looking for chances to teach my players that being a football player is bigger than them. They need to know they can make a positive impact on our society through servant leadership because of the platform being a football player provides. "Blue Devil Benefit" is a great opportunity to tangibly show my players that they can make a life changing difference. But we cannot do it alone—we need the support of our entire community! I hope you will join us for this special event!

Tim Hiller, Head Coach

GULL LAKE BLUE DEVILS ATHLETICS SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

This is the beginning of a great year for Gull Lake sports.
Be a part of it...join us in cheering your BLUE DEVILS on to victory!

September 1
Varsity Football at Paw Paw
Tennis **HOME** vs. K. Christian

September 6
Golf @ Coldwater
Soccer **HOME** vs. Marshall

September 7
Varsity Tennis @ Harper Creek
J.V. Tennis **HOME** vs. Harper Creek
Volleyball **HOME** vs. Battle Creek Central

September 8
9/JV Football @ South Haven
Tennis **HOME** vs. Allegan
Soccer @ Coldwater

September 9
Varsity Football **HOME** vs. South Haven
Golf @ Marshall Invitational

September 10
Cross Country @ Harper Creek Invitational
Varsity Tennis @ Hackett Invitational
Soccer **HOME** vs. Eaton Rapids
Varsity Volleyball @ Cereal City Tournament
8A and 7A Volleyball @ Comstock

September 12
Golf @ Sturgis
Tennis **HOME** vs. Sturgis
Soccer @ Plainwell
MS Cross Country Invitational **HOME**

September 13
Cross Country **HOME** vs. Portage Central
Soccer @ Harper Creek

September 14
Varsity Tennis @ Loy Norrix
J.V. Tennis **HOME** vs. Loy Norrix
Volleyball **HOME** vs. Marshall

September 15
9/JV Football **HOME** vs. Three Rivers
MS Volleyball **HOME** vs. Harper Creek

September 16
Varsity Football @ Three Rivers

September 17
Cross Country @ Holly Invitational
Tennis Parent/Child Tournament **HOME**
Varsity Volleyball @ Fruitport
J.V. Volleyball Invitational **HOME**

September 19
Golf **HOME** vs. Plainwell
Varsity Tennis @ Lakeview
J.V. Tennis **HOME** vs. Lakeview

September 20
Cross Country @ Loy Norrix
Soccer @ Loy Norrix
MS Volleyball @ Marshall

September 21
Tennis @ SMAC Tournament **HOME**
Volleyball @ Coldwater

September 22
9/JV Football @ Vicksburg
Soccer @ Lakeview
MS Volleyball **HOME** vs. Lakeview
MS Cross Country @ Delton Invitational

September 23
Varsity Football **HOME** vs. Vicksburg

September 24
Cross Country @ West Catholic Invitational
Golf @ SMAC Finals @ Pine View Golf Course
Varsity Tennis @ Greater Kalamazoo Invitational @ Mattawan
Soccer **HOME** vs. Portage Northern
Freshmen Volleyball Invitational **HOME**
Varsity Volleyball @ Portage Central Invitational
8B Volleyball @ Harper Creek Invitational
MS Cross Country @ Comstock Invitational

September 26
Varsity Tennis @ Greater Kalamazoo Finals @ Mattawan
Varsity Volleyball @ Portage Central Invitational

September 27
MS Volleyball @ Sturgis
MS Cross Country @ Harper Creek Invitational
September 28
Tennis **HOME** vs. Plainwell
Volleyball @ Harper Creek

September 29
9/JV Football **HOME** vs. Allegan
MS Volleyball **HOME** vs. Coldwater

September 30
Varsity Football @ Allegan

October 1
Volleyball @ Greater Kalamazoo Tournament @ Kalamazoo Central H.S.



Gull Lake Proudly Presents Your 2011 Blue Devil Marching Band!

Introducing: 'The Knight'

Contributed by: Christina Avery and John Hudson

The Gull Lake Blue Devil Marching Band presents its 2011-2012 marching show 'The Knight', featuring music by Gary P. Gilroy (ASCAP). 'The Knight' promises to be one of the most exciting performances the band has ever presented. The Blue Devil Band traveled to Central Michigan University on July 25th and returned July 30th after an intense week of Band Camp. Over the course of 6 days, they were successfully able to complete nearly half of their medieval show and perform a sneak peak to the parents of the band students. The Gull Lake Marching Band has a busy schedule ahead of

them, including the first home football game on August 26, only 3 weeks after the conclusion of their camp. During those weeks, the band plans to complete the show in its entirety, so that it can be performed at half-time. Band Director, Floy Latham, is thoroughly excited for 'The Knight' and believes it will be another great season for the marching band. 'The Knight' will hook audiences from the beginning with powerful music, a passionate storyline, and complex and intricate visuals performed by the band. Viewers will be drawn back to see 'The Knight' again and again, as one

cannot take in all of the visual elements in just one showing. From intense sword fights, to the fall of the queen, to the death of a noble knight, 'The Knight' promises to be a performance that will draw crowds and garner the attention of even the most die-hard football fans.

Schedule of Events

- August 26: Blue Devil Football
- September 9: Blue Devil Football
- September 23: Blue Devil Football
- September 24: Kenowa Hills Marching Competition
- September 24: Otsego Marching Competition
- October 1: Gull Lake Marching Invitational
- October 7: Blue Devil Football Homecoming
- October 15: East Kentwood Marching Competition
- October 21: Blue Devil Mass Band Performance
- March 30-April 4: Orlando, Florida Spring Break

Gull Lake Athletics

Gull Lake Sports Boosters Upcoming Events

August 26 Blue Devil Bash, 5-8 pm. An opening night tailgate celebration sponsored by Gull Lake Sports Boosters, Richland Area Business Association, and other local businesses. Good Food and Fun!

September 9 Blue Devil Benefit. 7:00 pm. Support the American Cancer Society and Gull Lake Football in a Survivor Walk at half-time. Shirt sale of \$10 includes entry into game.

October 7 Homecoming.. "Drive One 4 Your School." Take this great opportunity to test drive several of the hottest Fords and help us raise money for Gull Lake Sports at the same time. Brought to you by **Galesburg Ford**.

October 8 Texas Hold 'em Poker tournament. Gull Lake Country Club. More details to follow.

Become a Gull Lake Sports Booster.

Find more information at www.gulllakesportsboosters.org

SAVE THE DATE!

Gull Lake's 8th Annual Marching Invitational Saturday, October 1, 2011

By Ken Ball, Publicity Chair for GL Marching Competition

As the steamy days of summer give way to the cool breezes of fall, it can only mean one thing...Blue Devil Marching Season! Once again the Gull Lake Community Schools and Gull Lake Band Parents Association will be hosting its 8th Annual Gull Lake Marching Invitational on Saturday, October 1, 2011. This Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) competition will

feature High School bands from across the region vying for awards in Marching, Music, Visual Effect, and Music Effect and will feature an Exhibition Performance by our own Blue Devil Marching Band. "Competition Marching is a lot more than the old-fashioned march in a block and make shapes, it's much more involved, more dramatic" says Gay Jackson, this year's Committee Chair.

"Last year we had one school basically re-enact the story of the Civil War and the healing that came after, and another that worked a football game into their routine". This year promises to have just as creative a line-up. So come on out and enjoy a great day of music, marching and fun for the entire family. Concessions will be available on site.

Olivet High School Marching Band, October 2010, Civil War Re-enactment - Photo Courtesy of Warren Whaley

Businesses interested in advertising in the event program can contact Jackie Redmond at 629-5316. For more information you may visit the Band Parents' Website at <http://gulllakeband.com/>.





Tuesday, October 25, 2011, 6:30 pm Distinguished Speaker Series

Families, students and staff are getting ready for the event and learning how to protect our planet.



Summer students create banners for the event.



Recycled materials create art!



Family fun on the Ecology Sail.



Scuba lessons open up a new world.



Look for Hardings bags promoting the event!



Interested in volunteering?
Send an email to glspeakerseries@yahoo.com or call 488-5014.

Ticket sales begin Thursday, September 1, 2011, online at www.glcsf.org or at the Richland Community Library.



Camp Great Learning Gets Young Learners Ready for School!

by Peggy Kendrick,
Summer School Coordinator

Gull Lake's "Camp Great Learning" Summer School program provided three weeks of fun, but intensive instruction for our incoming first, second and third grade students this August. Located at the Ryan Intermediate building, the summer school staff provided individual and small group learning to get our youngest learners ready for back to school. Students continued many of the research-based programs they did during the school year, as well as many other best practices in teaching and learning. A variety of approaches and activities were utilized including Brain Gym, team teaching, reading to "Lucy the Literacy Dog", utilizing online learning programs, and having visitors from all over the district come as guest readers. This was a great treat, especially when guests "dressed the part" of the story, brought props like Petoskey stones, brought a young friend or a student from the high school who is also a "Great Leader".

The Summer School staff appreciated all the support from our visitors from the district, as well of that of the parents. The students were always enthusiastic and ready to learn each day. Our youngest students are now ready for the school year and more GREAT LEARNING!!



READ and RIDE Summer Camp 2011

Giddy-up and read!!!! That's what 17 1st graders did the week of July 18-22 at READ and RIDE Camp at the Cheff Center in Augusta. We are enjoying year two of a three year multi-year grant given by the Gull Lake Community Schools Foundation. We were fortunate to have a number of other sponsors who supported this endeavor by "sending -a-student-to-camp" as well. Students practiced their oral reading fluency, phonics skills, expanded their reading vocabulary, and exercised both sides of their brain! They enjoyed riding horses in the arena while playing phonics games, and experienced a trail ride, too! Each day the students prepared selections to read to their special friends, trained therapy dogs who like to listen to children read! Confidence, reading fluency, and fun abounded at our great week at camp. What a great opportunity for our students to grow and learn in such a concrete way. Thanks to all of those who supported this innovative camp experience!!



Fun for ALL! Saturday, October 8

Run or Walk—1K - 8:15 a.m. • 5K - 9 a.m.
Individuals • Families • Teams

**Free brunch • Free medals
Prizes • Free T-shirt**

Register at
www.wmich.edu/race

Call Sue Beougher at 269-387-8402 • Email sue.beougher@wmich.edu

Participants also get a chance to win:
one AAA travel voucher • two Bronson gift baskets
The Chontract B-Tag Disposable system is used to time the 5K run.

