



From the Superintendent

Brent Beamish

Our students and staff with the strong support of our parents and community have had an excellent first half of the school year and now eagerly embark upon the second semester. In early spring, we will be holding the annual school election. It is mandated that every five years school districts must hold an election requesting your vote to approve the Headlee Millage Reduction. This approval is a win for our students as well as our community. Renewal of the Headlee Millage will enable the school district to levy the statutory rate of 18-mills against non-homestead and non-qualified agricultural property. Ballot language can be confusing, but you need to know this will **not** result in a tax increase. Your approval allows our school district to continue to receive the funds per student base needed to provide a positive and safe learning environment. We will also be asking our community to elect members to the Columbia School District Board of Education. The election date is scheduled for May 6, 2008. Please support your schools and community by getting out and voting. Additional information will be available prior to the election date. Please recognize your continued support is truly appreciated. For now, we begin another semester filled with positive educational possibilities here at Columbia School District. As always, if you have any questions you can reach me at the Administration Office at 592-6641 or my home 592- 6531.

School



Hours

Elementary 8:50 am - 3:45 pm
Secondary 7:45 am - 2:29 pm

Calendar of Events 2007/08

Jan. 21	Martin Luther King Day - No School
Jan. 25	No School Students - Records Day
Feb. 6	R & D Day - Early Release
Feb. 15 & 18	Mid-Winter Break - No School
Mar. 12	R & D Day - Early Release
Mar. 26	Parent/Teacher Conferences <i>Elementary Only</i>
Mar. 27-28	Parent/Teacher Conferences <i>Half Day - Elementary Only</i>
Mar. 31	Spring Break Begins
Apr. 7	School Resumes
Apr. 16	R & D Day - Early Release
May 14	R & D Day - Early Release
May 26	Memorial Day - No School
Jun. 6	Last Day of School - 1/2 Day

2007 - 2008

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT TIME

Early Release

February 6, 2008 • March 12, 2008

April 16, 2008 • May 14, 2008

Secondary Schedule - Students dismissed at 12:30 p.m.
Elementary Schedule - Students dismissed at 1:45 p.m.

The purpose of this professional time is to plan, study, implement and monitor instructional strategies and programs that will positively impact student achievement.

Suggestions for the use of R & D Time will come from the Building and District School Improvement Teams. Agendas for the scheduled activities will be available the Friday before the monthly R & D Time. All staff members are encouraged to suggest topics and methods for how this time can be productively utilized, as long the recommendation is in keeping with the established R & D guidelines.

Minutes of each R & D session will be kept in the building's R & D Log and on file in the Superintendent's Office for public access.

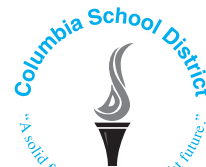
From the Editor... Ms. Donna Bush

torch@myeagles.org

Momentum... Every action we take affects others. Enthusiasm is contagious and the momentum is a powerful element of success. Be a positive influence, then stand back and watch the ripples your attitude can make.

In an effort to create a "momentum of sharing," I'd like to incorporate in the *Torchbearer* a Columbia School District Alumni Scrapbook. I will try to highlight some of our alumni as often as we can, but need to depend on getting referral information from all sources. I'd like to include diverse years of graduation. In this issue we have showcased different pathways such as professional, performing arts, military service, and graduates who returned to Columbia School District in their career. In earlier issues, we highlighted how many of our current and past Columbia School District Board of Education members were Columbia School District graduates and choose to serve the community through their dedication to making a difference in improving student achievement. So, I'm calling on parents, grandparents, community members and friends to send me information on your special Columbia School District graduate, and remember I'm interested in different years of graduation as well as a variety of vocations. Take a look at the Alumni Scrapbook included in this issue to see that all I would need is a short bio and a picture. You can contact me by email at torch@myeagles.org, by telephone Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Administration Office at 592-6641, or you can send the information to Donna Bush - Editor Torchbearer 11775 Hewitt Rd, Brooklyn, MI 49230. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Columbia School District Alumni Scrapbook



Ms. Judy Clouse (Stark)
Class of 1969

Ms. Clouse is a 4th grade teacher at Brooklyn Elementary School. She earned her degree from Central Michigan University in 1973, her Masters Degree from Eastern Michigan University in 1982 and has taught in Columbia School District for 35 years! She married her husband, David in 1975 and had two daughters Laura and Deanna.

Dr. Jessica Williams
Class of 1995

Dr. Williams is on the staff at Jackson Pediatric Associates on Fourth Street in Jackson, Michigan. She attended Wayne State University Medical School and did her residency at New York University Hospital. Dr. Williams is delighted she was able to establish her medical practice here in Michigan.



Andy Cattell
Class of 2001

Army Specialist Andrew P. Cattell graduated from Central Michigan University in 2006. He enlisted into the Army and completed his basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia. His advanced training was at Fort Huachuca, Arizona in intelligence and interrogation. He is currently stationed in Seoul, Korea at Fort Yongsan with the 524 Military Intelligence Battalion.

Coley Johnson
Class of 1972

Coley and his wife Debbie both graduated from Columbia Central High School and both attended Huntington College (University) in Huntington, Indiana graduating in 1976. He received his degree in Physical Education/Art. Coley is in his 30th year of employment with Columbia School District and his wife has taught for the Northwest School District for 32 years. Coley is very proud of his two wonderful children David and Katie who also graduated from Columbia School District. He currently continues to teach art in our high school and also serves as the Director of Athletics for the district.



David Bjorklund
Class of 1970

After graduating from Columbia School District, David received his B.S. Degree in Biology and Chemistry from Central Michigan University and his B.S. Degree in Pharmacy from Ferris State University. He is a Pharmacist employed at Welcome Pharmacies Inc. out of Jackson, Michigan. He and his wife, Denise have two children Brennen and Steven.

Bruce Hammond
Class of 1986

Bruce currently resides in Sante Fe, New Mexico with his wife Jennifer. After high school he attended JCC where he joined The Theatre Company and starred in most of their major productions of the time. He then attended Western University where he earned an acting degree. He moved to New York and traveled with an off Broadway production of *South Pacific*. Bruce eventually traveled across country to Los Angeles where he found steady work aboard a cruise ship as lead singer of popular shows. On the ship is where Bruce met Jennifer and they both moved to Sante Fe. Bruce actively auditions for parts in movies as well as other productions.



SCHOOL CLOSINGS

In most cases, the following radio and television stations will be notified by 6:00 a.m.

WABJ Adrian 1500 AM	WJXQ Jackson 106.1 FM
WITL Lansing 100.7 FM	WIBM Jackson 1450 AM
WKHM Jackson 105.3 FM	Jackson 970 AM
WMMQ East Lansing 94.9 FM	TV Stations: Channels 6, 10, 47 & 53

Do not call the bus garage for school closing information.
These phone lines need to remain open in order for radio and television stations to be notified.