

CHALK TALK

April 2009

Branson Public Schools Community Newsletter

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www.branson.k12.mo.us

Prospective Kindergarten Students Needed as We Begin *Ready, Set, Go*

The Branson School District will hold an introduction event entitled *Ready, Set, Go* for students who will enter kindergarten for the 2009-2010 school year. The event is scheduled **Tuesday, April 21** and will be held in the Primary cafeteria on the Cedar Ridge Elementary campus.

Prospective students whose last name begins with the letters A through L should attend from 4:30 until 5:30 pm; those whose last name begins with the letters M through Z should attend from 6:30 until 7:30 pm. The prospective student must be a resident of the Branson School District and be five years of age by August 1, 2009.

The *Ready, Set, Go* event will provide the students and parents with an opportunity to meet the teachers and gain valuable information about next year's kindergarten experience.

Prospective students will participate in small group activities designed to acclimate them with the school environment. Parents will sign up for a registration and screening time during this event.

Parents and legal guardians must bring documentation verifying the child's age (birth certificate) and current immunization record to the registration/screening appointment. Proof of residency in the Branson School District (property tax receipt, current utility bill or rent receipt) will also be required. The registration/screening date for each family will be scheduled at the *Ready, Set, Go* event.

Questions regarding *Ready, Set, Go* and kindergarten registration should be directed to the Primary office by calling **336-1887**.

Junior Information Meeting Helps Students with Senior Year

Branson High School counselors will conduct an informational meeting for junior students and their parents **Monday, April 6 at 6 pm**. The meeting will be held in the High School Auditorium. Information on college entrance exams, AP/Dual Credit classes and college application procedures will be discussed.

Information available at this meeting will be very beneficial to junior students and

they are encouraged to attend. If you have questions regarding this meeting, you may contact the **counseling office** by calling **334-6511, ext. 5031 or 5031**.



Students Raise Over \$5,000 for American Heart Association

Kindergarten and first grade students took on a little jump roping for some very good reasons in February. In addition to keeping themselves fit, the students jumped rope for the American Heart Association. The students are under the instruction of **John Helsel**.

The students spent their physical education time jumping rope to raise money for the charity. Pledges were taken from family members to support the students in their efforts. The students collected **\$5,239.97** for the American Heart Association.

Jump Rope for Heart is a national educational fund raising program that is sponsored by the American Heart Association and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.



**No School
April 10**

District Honored for Annual Performance at DESE Banquet

The Branson School District received the state's highest honor by earning the Distinction in Performance Award last January. This is the fourth consecutive year the district has earned the award. Branson is among 330 districts to be recognized for achievement. The awards ceremony will be held **April 15** on the campus of Missouri State University. District representatives will be on hand to receive the award.

The Distinction in Performance Award is based on the 14 academic performance standards that are the basis for the state's accreditation program for all school districts. The standards are based on scores from the state-mandated MAP tests, graduation rate, attendance rate, ACT scores and other indicators. To qualify for the award, K-12 districts were required to meet 13 out

of 14 standards, including all MAP-based measures. Under the state's accreditation process, known as the Missouri School Improvement Program, each school district is evaluated at least once every five years. The Distinction in Performance Award is based on the same criteria used in the accreditation process, but it provides an annual confirmation and recognition of a district's consistent performance.



Annual Fund Raiser for Band Program Features Sweet Jazz

The Branson Band Boosters will host the Fifth Annual Sweet Jazz Auction and Concert **April 26**. The event will be held at the High School from 2:00 until 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person, \$2 for students and \$10 for a family ticket. Band students will be admitted free of charge. Tickets may be purchased at the door or from any Band Booster. All proceeds will be used to benefit the band program in grades 6-12.

Live music will be performed by both High School and Junior High jazz bands. Homemade desserts and drinks will be served by band students during the performances.

A silent auction will feature many items for bid including a two-night stay at a local hotel, a one-hour massage and several \$100 gas vouchers. Many local

supporters will donate cakes and pies for auction.

If you would like additional information about the event, make a donation or sponsor a table, please contact **Kara Miller** by calling **417-294-1888** or e-mail karathechef@yahoo.com

Junior High Math Students Earn Honors at Area Competition

Junior High students competed in the College of the Ozarks Math Contest in March. The team earned fourth place overall in the competition which included schools from throughout the southwest region.

Additional winners included: **Corey Matzat** and **Keaton Reich** – first place in the Open Division
Gavin Jacoby and **Dalton Jewsbury** –

Delegation Headed to National Student Leadership Conference

Ashley Bressler and **Jordan Campbell**, both juniors and members of the Branson High School Student Council, were among 600 students attending the Leadership Experience and Development (LEAD) conference March 27-29 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The LEAD conference is hosted by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), which administers the National Honor Society and the National Association of Student Councils.

Bressler and Campbell attended workshops on improving leadership skills, problem solving, student project planning and student activity program development. These workshops will greatly benefit them as Branson student leaders. In addition, they participated in special sessions presented by popular motivational speakers.

“The LEAD conference offers talented young people from across the country the opportunity to hone their leadership skills in order to make a difference in their schools and communities,” said Dr. Gerald N. Tirozzi, executive director of NASSP.

The students were accompanied by their sponsors **Debbie Jones** and **Donna Talbot**.

second place in the 8-I Division
Dani King and **Alexander Henry** – second place in the 7-II Division

The team of **Matzat, Reich, Jacoby** and **King** competed at the State MathCounts competition at the University of Missouri. The students are under the instruction of **LeAnn Kennedy**.

Annual Board of Education Election Held in April

The annual election of the Branson board of education will be **April 7**. Two, three year terms are open on the seven-member board.

Names appearing on the ballot include: **Eric Alms**, **Peter Marcellus** (incumbent), **Wendy Davison** (incumbent) and **Scott Winslow**.

Student Art Walk Held at Cedar Ridge Campus

Artists in grades K-4 will showcase their talent on **Thursday, April 30** from **5:30** until **7:00 p.m.** Artwork will be on display throughout the Primary Elementary.

We hope to see you at our April Art Walk!



High School Booster Meeting and Sports Book Scheduled

The High School Main Booster Club will meet **April 15** at **5:30 pm** in the Commons. Coaches and parents are encouraged to attend.

The club is currently seeking advertisers for the spring sports book. If you are interested in becoming an advertiser, please contact project chairman **Sharron Koomen** by calling **239-1088**.

All funds generated from the sports books are used to benefit student athletes.

Future Business Leaders Win Big at District 18 Competition

The BHS chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America participated in the District 18 competition in March. Schools comprising District 18 include all Springfield high schools, Branson, Blue Eye, Forsyth, Hollister, New Covenant Academy, Ozark, Reeds Spring, Bradleyville, Sparta, Logan-Rogersville, Spokane and Nixa. Branson students and their winning entries include:

Kelsey Applegate – third place, Introduction to Business Communication

Brandon Pollpeter – fifth place, Technology Concepts

Sam Pomeroy – second place, Technology Concepts

Sara Dern – fifth place, Public Speaking II

Amanda Bray and **Kayla Evans** – fifth place, Desktop Publishing

Koda Sorenson and **Ethan Warren** – fifth place, Emerging Business Issues

The business students are under the direction of **Alisa Cornelison**, **Jeff Howard**, **April Fiesler** and **Austin Herschend**.

Drama Department Selects *Web of Murder* as Spring Production

The High School drama department has selected “Web of Murder” as its spring production. The mystery/comedy is scheduled for two performances – **April 16 and 17** – which will begin at 7 p.m. in the Auditorium. The students are under the direction of **Debbie Corbin**.

The main character is an ailing, wheelchair-bound widow who has restricted her daughter and housekeeper

to the confines of her mansion. She summons the two favorite nieces to join in for a reading of her will. They arrive with their boyfriends to participate in, what was supposed to be, a family-only meeting. Before the will is read, dead bodies appear and a diabolic plot is revealed.

We hope to see you at one of our performances of “Web of Murder”.

Project Graduation Fund Raisers Set for April

Project Graduation organizers have several opportunities for you to participate in their fund raising efforts in April. Area restaurants will again donate a portion of sales to the project. Participating restaurants include:

Luigi’s – Thursday, April 9; 5-9 pm

Ben & Jerry’s – Saturday, April 11; all day

Panera Bread – Tuesday, April 14; 5-8 pm

Fuddruckers – Saturday, April 18; 5-8 pm

Order forms for Pirate T-shirts and sweatshirts will be sent home in

backpacks of students in grades K-6 and made available to students in grades 7-12. A new Pirate shirt design will be unveiled.

A *Gold Rush* fund raiser is scheduled April 26 from 12:30 until 4 p.m. at the Pointe Royale Clubhouse. Professionally trained gold buyers from The Gold Refinery will be on hand to purchase your unwanted gold jewelry. Cash will be paid based on the price of gold on the day of the event. Appointments are necessary. Please call **Margaret Allen (336-4671)** to schedule.

April Calendar



Character Word - *Perseverance*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			HS Golf @ Nixa Para Appreciation Day 1	HS Golf @ Ledgestone PTO 12:30 @ EW JH Softball @ Nixa Soccer Bolivar-H JH Track @ Bolivar HS Track-H 2	Arbor Day HS Baseball Furst T. 3	Buccaneer Ball 4
5	HS Baseball Bolivar-H JH Track @ Ozark JV Track @ Republic	JH Softball Willard-H Soccer @ Nixa Tennis Nixa-H HS Track Rogersville-H	HS Track @ Glendale 8	HS Golf @ Pt. Royale HS Baseball Reeds-H Soccer @ Marshfield JH Track Relays-H Tennis Kickapoo-H HS Track @ Hillcrest 9	No School 10	11
12	9Baseball @ Parkview HS Baseball @ Harrison Tennis Forsyth-H JV Track @ Ozark HS Golf @ Bolivar	HS Track Nixa-H HS Band Concert-7pm JH Softball Ozark-H HS Baseball Neosho-H 9 Baseball @ Neosho Soccer Ozark-H	Tennis Tourney @ Springfield 15	HS Baseball@Republic 1st Music @ EE 6 & 7 Board Meeting 8 pm Spring Play 7 pm Soccer @ Camdenton JH Softball Buffalo-H JH Track @ R.S. 9Baseball Republic-H Tennis @ Central HS Golf @ Marshfield 16	Spring Play 7 pm JH Track @ Marshfield Tennis Bolivar-H 17	Soccer Branson Tourney GSL Jazz Festival 18
19	HS Baseball Marshfield 9Baseball @ Marshfield JV Track Nixa-H Soccer @ Parkview HS Golf @ Rogersville	HS Track @ Ozark HS Baseball @ W.C. Soccer Carthage-H JH Track @ Willard 9Baseball W.C.-H Tennis Neosho-H Kindergarten-Ready, Set, Go	Earth Day Secretaries Day Tennis @ Glendale HS Golf @ Carthage Primary Literacy Event 22	HS Baseball Nixa-H 9Baseball @ Nixa HS Track @ Willard HS Golf @ Marshfield K-4 Science Night @ EE 6-8 pm 23	JH Softball @ Buffalo Soccer @ Camdenton JH Softball @ Buffalo 24	25
HS Sweet Jazz @ HS 2-5 pm 26	JH Track @ Nixa 9Baseball @ Kickapoo HS Baseball Kickapoo Tennis Reeds Spring-H JV Track-H HS Golf COC	JH Softball Nixa-H HS Baseball @ Willard Soccer Willard-H 9Baseball Willard-H	Super COC Track-H JV Golf COC 29	Tennis New Cov.-H JH Softball @ Ozark CR Art Show @ P HSBaseball Carthage-H JH Track @ Rogersville 9Baseball @ Carthage 30		

CHALK TALK
 Published by the Branson R-IV School District,
 400 Cedar Ridge Drive, Branson, MO 65616
 Dr. Doug Hayter, Superintendent
 Brenda Romine, Editor
Board of Education 2008-2009
 Dr. Peter Marcellus, president;
 Patty Loyd, vice president;
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 Mike Booth, Wendy Davison, Teresa Givens,
 and Ryan Pock, directors

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