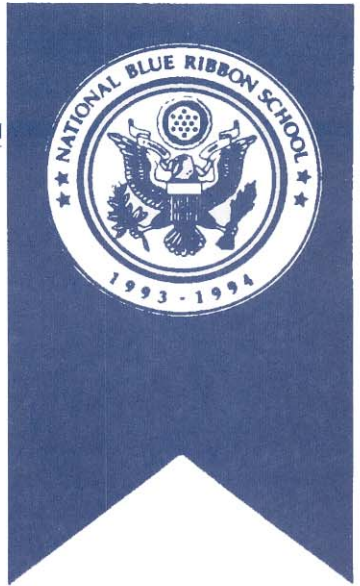


Ballwin Elementary ★★ National Blue Ribbon School

Bear Tracks



March 31, 2010

Families,

In response to feedback from parents, Rockwood has changed the format of all of the schools' websites.

In an effort to increase communications, our new website is easy to access. Additionally, with the ease of finding information, a formal newsletter will not need to be created each month since the website has columns for all information. When you open our website you will see three columns; Latest News, Upcoming Events, and Announcements. The Latest News column is dedicated to Rockwood School District News. The Upcoming Events column is dedicated to the Ballwin School Calendar. The Announcements column is dedicated to Ballwin news that you would typically find in our newsletter. The Upcoming Events and Announcements column will take the place of our monthly newsletter. Both columns will be updated weekly so no matter the time of day or day of the month you will always be up to date whenever you access the website. We will ease you into this new form of communication by sending weekly emails to remind you to check the website for updates.

We know how essential parents are to the success of our school. We want to make sure you have the needed information to be involved in your child's education. We appreciate your support and involvement and look forward to continuing our work as we strive for higher academic achievement. We are very fortunate to have a school that has such strong parent and teacher partnerships. Our teachers and our parents have a significant effect on the academic achievement of each child.

Please Vote

April 6th

Sincerely,

Julie Gay
Principal

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For more information, please visit our Web site at:
www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/ballwin

"Success Starts Here"

Ballwin Elementary School
Rockwood School District
400 Jefferson Avenue
Ballwin, MO 63021-4998
(636) 207-2533
Julie Gay, Principal

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2010

- 3/30-4/10 MAP State Assessment (Grades 3-5)
- 1 Early Dismissal Day – (School dismissed 12:08PM, PM Kindergarten attends during AM, lunch is served)
 - 2 NO SCHOOL
 - 5 NO SCHOOL
 - 6 Please **VOTE!**
 - 7 Librarian Appreciation Day
Paraprofessional Appreciation Day
 - 8 Board of Education Meeting, Crestview MS, 7:30PM
 - 10 Read, Right & Run Marathon, Forest Park
 - 13 BEARS Social
PSO Meeting, 9:45AM, RM 114
National Librarian Day
 - 15 Kindergarten 101, 6:30PM
 - 20-24 Public School Volunteer Week
 - 21 Administrative Professionals Day
 - 22 Board of Education Meeting, Crestview MS, 7:30PM
 - 23 Volunteer Breakfast
 - 24-25 Rockwood Art Show @ Wildwood MS, Noon - 3:30PM
 - 29 Strings & 5th Grade Chorus Concert, Gym 7PM

CHARACTER EDUCATION

The character trait for the month of April is **PATIENCE** or “waiting calmly.” Please make time this month to discuss with your child what **PATIENCE** means and take advantage of opportunities to model this trait. Do projects at home that require **PATIENCE** with yourself as you persevere to attain them? Examples of **PATIENCE** are doing homework, playing a musical instrument, planting a garden, cooking, etc. We will be discussing and modeling this character trait at school.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Early Dismissal Days

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming staff development days. It is very important to inform your child's teacher of any transportation changes on these days. School Dismissed at 12:08PM – PM Kindergarten attends from 8:23 AM to 12:08PM, LUNCH IS SERVED. For more calendar information please visit www.rockwood.k12.mo.us.

September 15	December 8	March 2
October 13	January 15	April 1
November 5	February 12	May 4

ROCKWOOD SUMMER ACADEMY 2010

The Rockwood Summer Academy is designed to give an academic boost to students in Language Arts and Math skills. Students must be recommended by their school for participation in the program. If your child qualifies for this program, his/her teacher will send home enrollment forms with your child. All elementary students are welcome to participate in Rockwood Summer Academy's Community Education classes which provide a variety of fee-based options appealing to all likes and interests.

Dates: June 7 – July 16 (no class July 5)
Locations: , Uthoff Valley, Vandover Elementary: Babler, Ballwin, Geggie, Stanton and Wild Horse
Academic classes will be six weeks; school recommendation is required.
Enrichment classes will run during six, one-week sessions: classes are fee-based and open to all students.
Session One: June 7 – 25
Session Two: June 28–July 16 (no class July 5)

Online registration for elementary and middle enrichment classes is now open. Visit

<http://www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/summeracademy/Pages/default.aspx>

5th GRADE CHORUS SINGS AT BUSCH STADIUM

GO CARDS! Please join us at Busch Stadium on Saturday, May 1st at 12:10PM and enjoy an afternoon full of MVP-style fun and celebrate the Cardinals 3-time National League MVP Award winner, Albert Pujols, while the Cardinals take on the Cincinnati Reds.

Saturday, May 1st is Albert Pujols MVP Canvas Print Day. A beautiful photo of Albert, mid-swing, printed on a 9" x 12" canvas and mounted as a complete wall hanging is one you will definitely want to add to your collection, compliments of Bank of America.

“God Bless America” will be sung by our Fifth Grade Chorus directed by Ms. Jennifer Burke. Tickets for the 5th grade chorus members and their families will be on sale beginning Monday, March 1st. Tickets for all Ballwin families and friends will be on sale beginning Monday, March 8th. Order forms will be coming home soon!

ACCELERATION AND DIFFERENTIATION IN KDG

Meeting individual needs takes on many different aspects in the kindergarten classroom. Appropriate planning and preparation is done to meet and accommodate individual students.

In **Language Arts**, through the Harcourt Reading program, the kindergartners are engaged in reading and writing activities, which are tiered according to their reading and writing abilities. The Earobics Literacy Launch and Harcourt's Phonics Express software provide students the opportunity to learn phonological awareness at their individual level. Centers in the classroom provide for small group instruction as well as flexible grouping. Individualized Book Boxes provide a variety of leveled books and activities that are used in partner reading, small group, and individual instruction. These Book Boxes are continually changing to meet the needs of each child's developing reading skills.

In **Spelling**, children who have mastered the basic fifteen core words are challenged to use more advanced core words in their writing process. Children are encouraged to spell correctly in their daily writing as well as at the classroom writing center and spelling application in their journals.

Math is presented through the Everyday Mathematics program. Based on a spiraling curriculum and organized into six content strands, the kindergarten students are introduced to calendar, routines, graphs, shapes, patterns, time, money, measurement, and number sense. Differentiated instruction is accomplished through technology, center games, and hands-on activities. Centers in the classroom provide the opportunity for small group instruction. District approved websites, for use at both home and school; give students the independent practice to challenge themselves in math concepts.

In **Science**, ideas are always given for students to research and focus on material not yet introduced. They take the small amount of information given and expand their knowledge through units on such subject areas as animals, matter, plants, and the five senses.

Throughout the school year, students are given the opportunity to differentiate their learning at home through a monthly homework calendar that uses selective choices. This type of homework allows children to choose from activities, which challenges them to work to a higher level of thinking based on different learning styles. It allows parents to choose activities that provide additional practice, as well as enrichment.

HATS OFF TO BALLWIN BEARS & STAFF

Thanks staff and students for such a WONDERFUL Hat Day! As a school we raised \$530+ for Friends of Kids with Cancer! All classes were very generous, but the class that raised the most money is **Mr. Mathys'** class with a total of \$64.00. Congratulations! A special thank you goes to Mrs. Newton's first graders for making great posters and helping out with this special day! Hats off to **all** Ballwin Bears!

Congratulations to **Michael Wu** for representing Ballwin Elementary at the St. Louis Post Dispatch Spelling Bee at Maryville University on March 14th.

Congratulations to **Ms. Allyson Ladd**, 5th Gr teacher, on being chosen as Ballwin Elementary Teacher of the Year. Ms. Ladd has been teaching in Rockwood for 7 years and will represent our school for the Rockwood Teacher of the Year award. Good Luck Ms. Ladd! The nominees for Teacher of the Year were, **Mrs. Jenna Kroll, and Mrs. Genevieve Betz**

Congratulations to **Kristin Clark, Jill Feller, and Cynthia Grandcolas** for being nominated for the Rockwood Cornerstone Award.

Congratulations to Ballwin School for receiving a Rockwood Schools Foundation Grant to support the “Pay It Forward” project, details coming soon!

???Leaving Ballwin Elementary???

If you know that your child(ren) will not be attending Ballwin Elementary next year, please take a moment to complete the bottom portion of this flier and return it to the school office, FRIDAY, April 30th.

By providing us with this information early, you help us in our efforts to plan for next year. Many decisions are contingent on enrollment so your help in this matter is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to encourage you to visit with your new school and complete the necessary enrollment information prior to June 1st. This will enable your child's records to be forwarded to the appropriate school in a timely manner.

Thank you!

+++++

2010-11 School Year

My child(ren) will not be returning to Ballwin Elementary for the 2010-11 school year.

Child's Name

Current Grade (2009-10)

We will be moving to: School _____

New Home Address _____

Parent Signature

Date

Please return to the Ballwin office by Friday, April 30th

District News

April 2010



Safety • Maintenance • Additions
Renovations • Technology

A \$55 million, no-tax increase bond issue is on the April 6 ballot. The Board of Education voted unanimously to seek voter approval for the proposition.

The decision followed months of study and recommendations from the Bond Issue Committee, a 50-member group comprised of a parent representative from each school, along with community members and staff. The committee reviewed school building needs throughout the 150 square miles of the district.

When is the election?

Tuesday, April 6, 2010. Polls are open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Where can I vote?

Registered voters will receive postcards from the Election Office designating the polling place for the voter. In addition, you can find your polling place at www.stlouisco.com/scripts/elections.

How many "Yes" votes are required for the passage of the bond issue?

The Constitution of the State of Missouri requires a four-sevenths (57.14 percent) majority for passage.

Where can I find Prop 5 information?

Visit the Rockwood Web site or your school Web site:
www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/prop5.

How will Prop 5 appear on the ballot?

Shall the Rockwood R-6 School District, St. Louis County, Missouri, issue its general obligation bonds in the amount of Fifty-five Million Dollars (\$55,000,000) for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, renovating, repairing, improving, furnishing and equipping school sites, buildings and related facilities in the District, including (1) safety measures and infrastructure, (2) maintenance of current facilities by continuing to fund major capital repairs and improvements, (3) additions for classrooms, (4) renovations for instructional areas, and (5) technology infrastructure and classroom technology, resulting in no estimated increase in the debt service property tax levy? If this proposition is approved, the adjusted debt service levy of the school district is estimated to remain unchanged at sixty-eight cents (\$0.68) per one hundred dollars assessed valuation of real and personal property.

Rockwood District Art Show

You are invited to the Rockwood Art Show:

Date: April 24-25

Time: Noon to 3:30 p.m.

Location: Wildwood Middle School located at
17401 Manchester Road

At the exhibit, more than 6,900 student artists will demonstrate their skills. While exploring the artwork on display, children are encouraged to get their face painted, participate in chalk painting and enjoy the fun!



Prop 5: What does it mean for my school?



Safety • Maintenance • Additions
Renovations • Technology

The \$55 million, no-tax increase bond issue focuses on these five areas:

- **S**afety measures and infrastructure
- **M**aintenance of current facilities
- **A**dditions for classrooms
- **R**enovations of instructional areas
- **T**echnology

At Ballwin Elementary, funds from the bond issue will allow the district to:

- Replace aged classrooms computers and install additional classroom computers to lower the student-to-computer ratio
- Provide portable computers for full-time teachers to improve access to technology resources
- Provide student response systems (clickers) to facilitate immediate assessment of student learning

- Install amplification systems in designated areas, such as Art and Music
- Replace aged projection devices and/or interactive whiteboards (SMART Board™)
- Provide wireless coverage for all instructional areas
- Replace aged/at capacity telephone and voicemail system with Voice over IP technology that includes 911 service
- Replace aged equipment and add additional switches
- Install new carpet on the gym stage
- Install new tile in the gym, lobby and all corridors in the east wing
- Replace rooftop units for HVAC
- Build screen walls around rooftop HVAC units
- Replace insulation on mechanical pipe system

See project lists for Selvidge Middle and Marquette High on back.

Take a moment to review the project lists for all Marquette feeder schools, and the entire district, at www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/prop5

At Selvidge Middle, funds from the bond issue will allow the district to:

- Replace aged classrooms computers and install additional classroom computers to lower the student-to-computer ratio
- Provide portable computers for full-time teachers to improve access to technology resources
- Provide student response systems (clickers) to facilitate immediate assessment of student learning
- Replace aged projection devices and/or interactive whiteboards (SMART Board™)
- Provide wireless coverage for all instructional areas
- Replace aged/at capacity telephone and voicemail system with Voice over IP technology that includes 911 service
- Replace aged network equipment and add additional switches
- Install new tile in the cafeteria
- Add supplemental HVAC system to main office area

At Marquette High, funds from the bond issue will allow the district to:

- Replace aged classrooms computers and install additional classroom computers to lower the student-to-computer ratio
- Provide portable computers for full-time teachers to improve access to technology resources
- Provide student response systems (clickers) to facilitate immediate assessment of student learning
- Install projection devices and interactive white boards (SMART Board™)
- Replace aged projection devices and/or interactive whiteboards (SMART Board™)
- Replace aged network equipment and add additional switches
- Install tile in 14 rooms and quarry tile in kitchen
- Replace HVAC screen wall system
- Replace sections of the building's roof
- Install kitchen hoods for gas ranges in FACS lab
- Expand student parking lot
- Expand existing weight room
- Construct new library and add and/or renovate space for 4-6 classrooms
- Conduct engineering study for possible new gym in the future

Bear Bits

MARCH 2010



Dear Ballwin Families,

Special thanks to the following individuals and groups:

- Trisha Sapenaro for assisting Miss Burke with grade level musicals;
- Kristy Thomson for coordinating the Spring Teacher Conference dinner and all of the generous parents and guardi-

ans who contributed to the dinner;

- Teachers, parents and guardians for successful spring conferences;
- Becky Hoffman for spearheading Veteran's Day planning (event scheduled for the Fall, 2010);
- Mel Caruso for participating in Caring Schools Community meetings and promoting

the school mathathon to benefit St. Jude's and children with cancer;

- Theresa Eckman for leading Ballwin's Spring Carnival team (event date of Friday, May 7) &
- Anna Speaker for organizing Ballwin's Relay for Life teams (event date Friday, June 4 – Saturday, June 5)!

Our next PSO meetings are as follows:

- Tuesday, April 13 at 9:45am - Room 114 (following the 8:45am Bear Social with topic of Internet /Technology Safety)
- Tuesday, May 11, 6pm - Library.

Thank you for your continued support of our children and our school!

Maiya Ingram, PSO President

Relay for Life

Relay For Life will be here before you know it! For detailed information about joining the PSO's "Ballwin Bears" team, call or email Anna Speaker @ 636-220-6444 or anna.speaker@yahoo.com.

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is a life-changing event that gives everyone in communities across the globe a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease. At Relay, teams of people camp out at a local high school, park, or fair-ground and take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. Because cancer never sleeps, Relays are

Spring Carnival

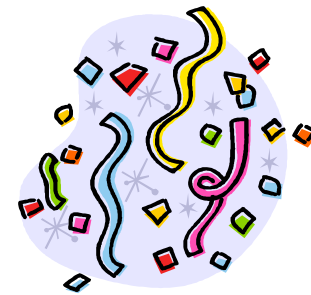
Ballwin Elementary's Annual Spring Carnival is Friday, May 7, 2010! Look for more information in upcoming newsletters, but mark your calendar now! You don't want to miss this fun, family event!

overnight events up to 24 hours in length.

Relay began in 1985 when Dr. Gordy Klatt, a colorectal surgeon in Tacoma, Washington, ran and walked around a track for 24 hours to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Since then, Relay has grown from a single man's passion to fight cancer into the world's largest movement to end the dis-

Many volunteers are needed to make this event a success! Please donate an hour of your time for a good cause...our children! Plus, it is fun! If you didn't get a chance to sign up during parent teacher conferences, please contact

Theresa Eckman at theresaeckman@gmail.com or 636-220-2699.



ease. Each year, more than 3.5 million people in 5,000 communities in the United States, along with additional communities in 20 other countries, gather to take part in this global phenomenon and raise much-needed funds and awareness to save lives from cancer. Thanks to Relay participants, the American Cancer Society continues to save lives.

Save the Date

Kindergarten Celebration:
May 26th
9:30-11:00 am

Look for more information to follow from the Kindergarten teachers.