

THE BLUE BANNER

SPRINGPORT ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2009

Springport Public School Web Site: springportschools.net

Dear Families,

Living in Michigan at this time equals living in tough economic times. With the recent passage of the school aid budget, it is evident that schools are not immune from cuts. Challenging times are ahead for our district. Cuts will need to be made while still focusing on our mission, "providing a quality education for all students." We are looking for your input as decisions are made. Once again, there will be community forums to gather ideas and suggestions. The first forum will be on Tuesday, December 1, at 7:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria. Please make every effort to join your neighbors as we focus on the future. The legislature in Lansing agrees that funding for education needs to be restructured. Please call and voice your opinion to your representative. They want to hear from parents about education issues. Thank you in advance for your support
Janis Sanford

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

Hannah Betz is Springport Elementary Citizen of the Month for September. Mr. Overweg believes that Hannah exemplifies the model student and is well deserving of this honor. Hannah is always respectful to other students and adults. She follows the Springport pledge by showing kindness to others, listening and following the rules. She was chosen not only for her behavior, but also for a comment I overheard while in her classroom. A discussion was going on about Christmas and Santa Clause. One of the students said that Santa wasn't real and it was actually your mom and dad who brought the presents. Hannah said "who cares? Christmas isn't about presents anyway; it's about giving to others and being with your family." It was awesome to hear her defending her understanding of the holiday season and sticking up for poor ol' Saint Nick. Congratulations Hannah on representing Springport's finest.

PICTURE RETAKES - NOVEMBER 19TH

Family Quilt Square Reminder ☺

The School Enrichment committee is organizing a school-wide project that highlights our priorities of family and community. Throughout November, your family has the chance to create a "quilt square." After collection, these squares will be strung together to form a community quilt that will hang in the front of the building. Each square should be decorated to reflect your family. Use this project as an opportunity to spend quality family time together and become a part of the Springport community. Paper for quilt squares can be found in the office, as well as instructions (these were also sent home with students). Have fun, but remember **all squares must be in by December 1st!** The quilt will be completed by the holiday festivities. Enjoy!!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to the elementary library on December 14-18. We will again hold an evening event on December 16 in conjunction with the Winter Walkthrough. The Book Fair will be open during the day in the Art & Science Room. We are in need of volunteers to: man the fair, help kids make choices, take money, and more. Please consider helping us provide an on-site bookstore for the kids. Contact Esther Byler, 857-3465 to sign up for a time.

The Greenhouse is Back

As another year begins, so does another season of greenhouse activities! Students are busy planting seeds in the school greenhouse. This year, we are growing lots of carrots, spinach, salad greens, Brussels sprouts, beets, radishes, cabbage, leeks, and turnips. Each grade will plant a box and take care of it. They will be in charge of weeding and watering, and eventually...eating! We look forward to watching our seeds germinate and grow.

More on back...

HOLIDAY CARDS

Thank you to those that have placed orders for our Holiday Cards. Cards will be printed and sets should be delivered to you around the Thanksgiving Holiday. We appreciate your support. Winning Entries include:

Jenel Kauffman	Grade 5
Keeley Church	Grade 5
Kelsey Stowell	Grade 4
Graceyn Newland	Grade 4
Jon Obert	Grade 3
Madisyn O'Dell	Grade 3
Jana Overweg	Grade 2
Ryan Jonas	Grade 2
Kaja Hickey	Grade 1
Dale-Anna Piercefield	Grade 1
Ryann Overweg	Kindergarten
Reaghan Kregel	Kindergarten

Thank you for participating in this project.
Congratulations to all of our young
authors/illustrators!

HOLIDAY SHOP

The Springport PTA will be hosting the Holiday Shop November 16-20th. Your child may choose their own special holiday gifts for family and friends. The prices range from 25 cents to \$12.00. The shop will be set up in the Music Room and supervised by our parent volunteers. We welcome you to be a part of this great experience. If you are interested in volunteering your time to help please contact BJ Cockroft at 517-206-8549. The Holiday Shop will also be open for parents and families to preview during conferences November 11-12. Stop in and see our selection.
Happy Holidays, Springport PTA

MOBILE DENTIST

Mobile Dentists/Smile Programs will be at the Elementary school on January 7, 2010. A permission form went home in your child's backpack. If you want your child to see the Mobile Dentists, please fill out the permission form completely and return it to your child's teacher or the elementary office by November 27. You can learn more about Mobile Dentist/Smile Programs by going to its website: www.mobiledentists.com

Starting Right with Art!

Art classes at Springport Elementary are off to a great start this year! We have been discussing *abstract* art and how we can create our own imaginative pieces. The kindergarten and first grade classes created "hand abstract" by tracing their hands and filling in every shape with a different color. Second, third and fourth grade classes learned how to draw "blind contours" of their own faces and make creative color choices to fill them in. We had a fun time drawing silly faces!

The first Stars of Art winner was chosen for the month of September. The Stars of Art is a rewards program to encourage each art class to do their best. The winner of the Stars of Art Award for September was Mr. Dyer's 3rd grade class. They have done an excellent job of following the rules, staying focused, and still having fun with art!

Another thing I have added to the art program is the Artist of the Month award. Each month, I will choose a student that has shown a good work ethic in class and shows talent and effort in their artwork. My Artist of the Month for September was kindergartener Ryann Overweg from Mrs. Dickinson's class. Ryann did a wonderful job creating her hand abstract and coloring it in perfectly. Congratulations to my wonderful artists and let's keep having fun creating!

The Artist of the Month for October is Bryant Taylor from Mrs. Miller's kindergarten class. Bryant always works his hardest in class and is always determined to focus and do his best. Bryant also has great artistic skill and makes beautiful pieces of art. His "Kandinsky Circles" are on display by the elementary art room and show wonderful shape and color. Congratulations to Bryant!

Mrs. Heidi Rhodes

Mark Your Calendar Parent Workshop Managing Frustration and Anger, Yours and Your Child's Presenter: Greg Gallagher with Recovery Technology December 8, 2009 6:30 – 8:00 P.M. Art/Science Room
