

March 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students and Friends of Bay City Public Schools,

This month I want to share some good things happening in our schools despite the gloomy financial picture.

Foreign Exchanges:

Last month, Auburn Elementary and our students' families hosted a group of 17 students from Taiwan. This month, Hampton Elementary is hosting 24 students from France who will be with us for three weeks and, in May, Hampton students will be going to France for three weeks as part of the exchange. I want to acknowledge and thank the parents, staff, students, and principals at both Auburn and Hampton for the time, money, and effort in making these global exchanges happen.

Board Member Building Visits:

On another positive note, board members enjoyed their visits this month to school buildings throughout the District and shared their experiences at our February board meeting. This has become a tradition in our District – one which board members truly value.

Board Governance Meetings:

Board members met with employee representatives in February as part of board governance. The information and ideas shared, as always, were well received, and are either being used or considered. One such idea was to let board members have more "unscheduled" time during building visits to talk with staff.

Fire Safety Survey:

A big thank you to all who participated in the online 10-question fire safety quiz; Bay City Fire Rescue earned a \$10,000 Fire Safety Pledge Award from Liberty Mutual Insurance.

Budget

On another note, we are looking at a budget reduction of between 7 and 7.5 million for our next school year. Please know that we are doing our best to minimize the impact on our students – but a reduction of this nature is bound to have a negative impact in many areas. We, however, remain positive in our pursuit of providing the best education possible within those budget constraints.

If you have comments or questions, I can be reached at newcombed@bcschools.net or 671-8165. I appreciate your interest and support of the Bay City Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Douglas L. Newcombe
Interim Superintendent