



Viking Voice

Bronson Community Schools Quarterly Newsletter
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Donation for Technology

Some of the first computers for student use in Branch County were the result of a donation from Richard and Doris Kehoe. In early February, Mrs. Kehoe continued the tradition of supporting Bronson Community Schools by donating money to update a computer lab.

The Kehoes established an endowment fund in 1984, the year Doris retired as a teacher from Bronson Community Schools. The fund has grown over the past 30 years through donations from other Kehoe family members as memorial donations and interest.

"Education is the base," says Doris. "If we don't give our community's children a good education, what do they have when we send them out into the world?"

Superintendent Teresa Belote smiles, "Mrs. Kehoe's commitment to this community and its future is unwavering."

Since it was created, the interest accumulated from the endowment fund has been used to support other school projects in the past.

The most recent gift of \$25,000 will fully upgrade a Bronson Junior/Senior High School computer lab. Mrs. Kehoe also donated an additional \$4300 to the Yes for Bronson Fund held within the Branch County Community Foundation.

"For me there's big satisfaction in giving. I hope other community members will join me in supporting our schools. Children in our community are always a worthwhile cause," says Doris.



Doris Kehoe presents great-niece Karen (Kehoe) Bell with a check for the Yes for Bronson Fund.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Technology Donation
- Stone Laboratory Visit
- Kindergarten Registration
- Snow Day Decisions
- Upcoming Events
- Join Mrs. Kehoe
- Congratulations
- Thespians
- Email Inbox



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Numbers to Know:

Anderson Elementary
517.369.3234

Ryan Elementary
517.369.3254

Bronson Jr/Sr High School
517.369.3230

Administration
517.369.3260

"The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit." - Nelson Henderson

Advanced Science Class to Visit OSU Stone Laboratory

Mrs. Franks' 7th Grade Advanced Science class recently received permission to attend the Ohio State University Stone Laboratory on Lake Erie. "I am extremely excited for this amazing opportunity," says Mrs. Franks. "Our students will have hands-on science experiences that relate to what they are learning in the classroom to real-life situations."



While at the island campus on Lake Erie, the class will participate in several activities including:

- Science Cruise - students will do hands-on work of a scientist on a research boat on Lake Erie including measuring environmental conditions (such as wind speed and direction, water depth, temperature, oxygen content, wave heights, and sunlight intensity).
- Plankton/Fish Labs - students will take the samples they collected on the cruise into the research building. The session ends with a fish dissection to examine internal organs, stomach contents and parasites and/or diseases.
- Invertebrate Walk/Fish Seining - learn to use "biological indicators" by collecting microinvertebrates using kick seines, dip nets, and direct observations.
- Insect Collecting - students collect and identify specimens around the island.
- Herpetology - the snake research being done at Stone Laboratory. This research has been featured on the Discovery Channel's "Dirty Jobs."
- Aquatic Visitor Center - more hands-on science activities including inspecting Lake Erie's complex ecosystem through hands-on displays, observing live fish in aquaria, and discovering current research projects that help protect Lake Erie.



The class is currently conducting fundraising efforts to curb the individual students' costs. If you would like to help you can purchase a Bronson Vikings wristband for \$2, donate can/bottle return slips, or simply make a direct donation. If you would like to help, please contact Mrs. Franks at franksl@bronsonschoos.org.

Kindergarten Round-Up

Do you know a child who will turn five before September 1, 2015? Kindergarten Round-Up for Bronson Schools will be held on Thursday, March 19 from 5 to 7 pm in conjunction with the Learning Fair at Anderson Elementary. No appointment is necessary, but parents and guardians should bring an official birth certificate, immunization record, and proof of residency (a utility bill, rental agreement, drivers license) with them.

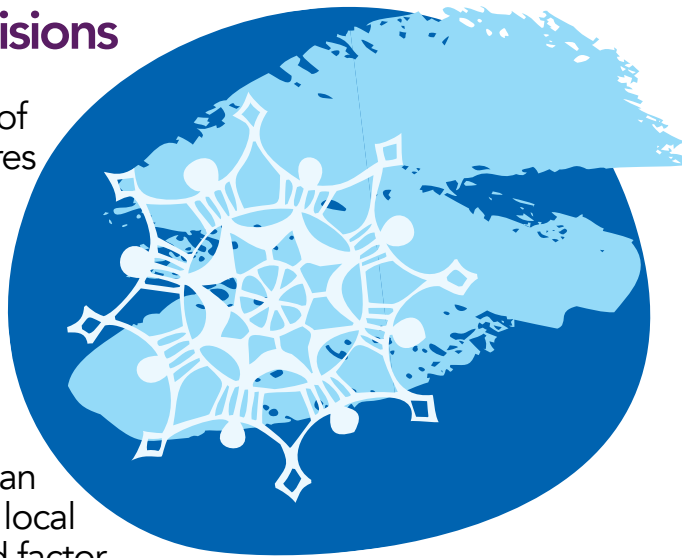
The Learning Fair is a FREE event for any child age 3-5 years old. In addition to registering for kindergarten, there will be hands-on activities for parents and children so children are prepared for the first day of school.

Snacks will be provided by Branch County Head Start, ConAgra, Branch County United Way, Chartwells, and in-kind donation from WalMart Distribution #6043.



Snow Day Decisions

When we have days of near zero temperatures and frigid wind chills, possible delays or closure of school is a very real possibility. When the temperature is extremely cold, superintendents began looking at things like local air temperature, wind factor and forecasts.



Generally, when the combined air temperature and wind speed create wind chills that are minus 20 or more, serious consideration is taken to delay or close. The word "generally" is important here. It's not an absolute and here's why: immediate forecast, longer term forecast, sustainability of the winds and whether the air temperature is increasing or decreasing are all important factors in the decision making process.

Similarly, I'd like to tell you there is a simple rule for making delay and closure decisions related to road conditions, but it's simply not true. Our transportation director and I work closely together to determine the conditions of the roads when the weather is questionable. Roads are driven, weather reports are reviewed for current and forecast predictions, input is collected from within and around our county and then an informed decision is made.

Safety is always the number one consideration. If a delay or closure is necessary because of wind chill or poor road conditions, that information will be relayed over the media and via School Messenger, as we do with other important announcements. At this time, the state allows the equivalent of six of the mandatory days/hours of instruction to be used as forgiven time for issues such as severe weather. In addition, districts that have over the requirement minimum number of days and clock hours are allowed to use those before adding on days to the calendar during extreme winters.

Like many of you, I'm looking forward to warmer, spring days ahead! Stay warm and stay safe.

Teresa Belote, Superintendent
Bronson Community Schools

Upcoming Events:

March

- 12-15 Wizard of Oz
- 19 Kindergarten Round-Up & Learning Fair
- 25 Ryan Elementary "In the Spotlight Night"
- 27 Anderson PTO Spring Carnival

April

- 3 Good Friday - No School
- 6-10 Spring Break
- 14 Anderson PTO Meeting
- 24 Anderson Grandparents Lunch
- 25 Junior-Senior Prom

Want to know more?

www.BronsonSchools.org

or

Follow us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/Bronson.Michigan>

Join Mrs. Kehoe!

Anyone can donate to the Yes for Bronson Fund within the Branch County Community Foundation! The fund was established to supplement and support the Bronson Community Schools and its K-12 students in their preparation for life by improving technology, transportation, and educational facilities in the school district.

Donations can be made securely through the foundation's website www.BrCoFoundation.org or by contacting the Community Foundation directly at 517.278.4517.



Congratulations BHS Wrestling and Competitive Cheer!

The Bronson Vikings Wrestling team had a fantastic season, winning the District Championship.

At press time, our Competitive Cheer team had advanced to regionals.

Way to go Vikings!



Thespians Present Wizard of Oz

The Bronson Junior Senior High School Thespians are presenting the classic musical "The Wizard of Oz."

The show will premiere at the Bronson Theatre on Thursday, March 12 at 7 pm with repeat performances on Friday, March 13, Saturday, March 14, and a 2 pm matinee on Sunday, March 15.

Students are involved in all aspects of the production including directing, set design, and lighting.

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