

Mission Statement

The Columbia School District, in partnership with the community, will provide a safe and positive learning environment, which will prepare ALL students to contribute and compete in a global society.

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TORCH BEARER

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BROOKLYN, MICHIGAN

JUNE 2011



Participation...

by Donna Bush, Editor

Three hands piled high; parent, child and teachers;
 Together strengthen all the tools that education features.



In concert and deliberately, these hands shape the students mind;
 One without the other, surely education could not bind.



Day after day, and time after time involvement is the key;
 When teachers teach and parents love, education there will be.



Captured evidence of this collaboration, pictured here so you can see;
 With hands piled high; and good intentions...*by design it takes all three!*



Some of the Parent/Student Activities at Columbia:

Family, Science and Geography Night, Ice Cream Social, talent show, musicals, carnival, Hope Run, Daddy-Daughter Dance, Donuts with Dad, Muffins with Mom, field trip and dance chaperones, classroom volunteer, PTO, sport events, Athletic Boosters, Santa's Secret Shop, summer reading/math programs, Got Art, homework supervision, Curriculum Committee, Building School Improvement Committee, P/T Conference, student council support, and book fairs... just to name a few! Additional ideas on our website under District Parent Involvement Plan.





From the Superintendent

Brent Beamish

Columbia School District excelled in academics by graduating over half of the senior class with honors while underclassmen through our elementary levels ranked above average in 17 out of the 18 tested categories on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program. Eagle Pride continues to soar as our student athletes surpassed many team and individual sport records while at the same time meeting their academic requirements and demonstrating sportsmanship. Our music and art programs continue to do extremely well and were highlighted throughout the school year. At the core of these achievements is a strong overall student citizenship foundation nurtured by our staff's commitment to highlight the importance of positive character traits. With the continued support of our students, staff, parents and community, this summer our school administration will be diligently transitioning to the Columbia Elementary School (Grades K- 4th) and the Columbia Middle School (Grades 5th-8th) model. On behalf of the Columbia School District Board of Education we wish our graduating seniors much success and are collectively looking forward to the 2011-2012 school year this fall. Have a restful summer with your families, and if you have questions, I can be reached at the Administration Office at 592-6641 or my home at 592-6531.



Transportation Coordinator - Greg Meschke

I am happy to share we have concluded our outline and plan for consolidating our K-8 facilities in one campus. Our staff has been wonderful in facilitating this process. All have been given a guideline to follow in making this be an organized transition. We will be transferring into rooms at CMS as soon as school finishes. The following two weeks will allow for room preparation at CES. The plan is to begin transferring class rooms starting June 27th. Our schedule and staffing for CMS is nearly complete and ahead of schedule. Being this is an aggressive plan, we have asked for any assistance from our school-community. If you are interested in helping, please feel free to contact me at 592-2181 or at 592-6641. We are in need of general assistance with several aspects of the move. I must share a sincere thanks to all the help we received for the open house held on May 17th. The PTO and parents collaborated to plan a fantastic evening for all. Their leadership and efforts resulted in a great night that set a positive tone for what's ahead. We acknowledge this by how many calls and e-mails we received expressing positive feedback from our parents. Plans have been initiated to communicate continued progress as we go. The Torchbearer will be just one extremely useful tool in sharing such information. We will also utilize our district webpage with further information as needed. I am confident next year will be a wonderful transition for our students, teachers and parents. Please feel free to contact me with any question or concern you may have. I will certainly do my best to assist.



Randy Schiel
President



Martha Kelly Spicer
Vice President



Doug Schedeler
Secretary



Robert Wahr
Treasurer



Dan Fulara
Trustee



Chuck Connolly
Trustee



Mark Fish
Trustee

COLUMBIA BOARD OF EDUCATION 2010-2011

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Organizational Meeting July 11, 2011

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. Also a second meeting (*) in October and February is reserved for board study focus. Meetings will be held in the Columbia Community Room at 7:30 p.m.

Some of the meetings may be held in other buildings in the district. Notice will be published when this takes place. The Administration Offices are located at 11775 Hewitt Road, Brooklyn, MI 49230. The telephone number is (517) 592-6641.

COLUMBIA SCHOOLS CHILD CARE

Columbia Preschool Program

Located at Columbia Middle School

READINESS PRESCHOOL

4 yr. old Monday through Thursday A.M. and P.M. classes
Times to be announced at a later date

TUITION PAID PRESCHOOL

4 yr. old Monday, Wednesday, Friday A.M. and P.M. classes
3 yr. old Tuesday and Thursday A.M. and P.M. classes

TUITION RATES PER MONTH

2 days a week = \$85 • 3 days a week = \$105 • 4 days a week = \$125
\$25 registration fee

To register need name, contact number and address to hold a spot, call:

Nancy Knaup, Preschool teacher 592-9753

Jennifer Uhl, Preschool teacher 592-9135

Columbia Child Care Program

Located at Columbia Elementary School

Monday through Friday-year round- 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Ages 2½ through 4th Grade

To register call: **Vickie Heaton, Program Director at 592-9135**

\$25.00 annual registration fee

COLUMBIA SCHOOLS CHILD CARE RATES

RATES ARE PER CHILD, PER DAY

25% additional sibling discount

\$25.00 for over 5 hours of care

\$18.00 for over 2 -5 hours of care

\$ 6.00 for up to 2 hours of care

\$ 6.00 before school

\$ 6.00 after school

\$18.75 for over 5 hours of care

\$13.50 for over 2-5 hours of care

\$ 4.50 for up to 2 hours of care

\$ 4.50 before school

\$ 4.50 after school

GOODBYE AND BEST WISHES...



Sheryl Halverson 1st Grade Teacher-MES

Ms. Halverson started her educational career at Davison, MI in 1973 where she taught first grade for three years. She taught as a substitute teacher with Columbia School District in 1981 and was hired to a full time position as a first grade teacher at Miller Elementary in 1986 to

present date. She would like to do some traveling in her retirement seeing places in the USA she has not had the opportunity to visit. She is excited to be able to spend more time with her two granddaughters, and hopes to find another outlet where her expertise may be needed. Ms. Halverson feels blessed to be able to teach and will take with her far more than she may have given to her students. She also is very appreciative to Columbia School District for the opportunity to teach many young children over the years.

BOARD BRIEFS

from Meetings held January through JUNE 2011

- Adopted Resolution to honor commitment of school board and principals
- Adoption of revision on policies and guidelines providing services to English Language Learners
- Accepted bid for timber located at CCE campus
- Adopted Resolution calling for a ballot proposition requesting a bond proposal for building and site purposes
- Recognized request by Columbia Fitness Center to open a checking account with OSB bank allowing the convenience of collecting member payments electronically
- Adopted updates for the Physical Education and Health curriculum
- Action taken to close Norman A. Miller Elementary school as proposed by administration
- Approved suggested goals and objectives by the Sex Education Advisory Board as required by the Michigan Department of Education
- Approval of action on personnel under the State Tenure Act
- Adopted resolution in support of the Headlee rollback for county wide special education funding
- Action to accept retirement resignation
- Accepted resolution to accept JCISD budget

Columbia School Board of Education members Randy Schiel, Martha Kelly Spicer and Chuck Connolly will leave the board effective the end of June. In Mr. Schiel's original term from 1998 - 2007 he served as a Trustee, returning in mid 2010 to help fill a vacancy on the board and was appointed as President in July 2010. Martha Kelly Spicer has served on our school board since 2000 as President, Vice President and Trustee. She served on various school boards and committees over the past 41 years and has brought un-measurable experience and wisdom to our board. In 2003 she was designated Master Board Member by the Michigan School Board Association, an honor given to school board members who have accumulated 425 or more MASB Education Credits. Chuck Connolly served as a Trustee from 2007-2011. Columbia School District truly appreciates their time, experience, and willingness to serve our school community. Voters recently elected Amy Miller and Jodi Collins as new members of our board of education. We will further introduce these elected officials in our Back to School issue of the Torchbearer.

2011 Top Teacher Award

Article condensed from Jackson Magazine June 2011
Written by: Lisa Donovan • Photo by: Danni Holt

The students who stream into Willow Jeffreys classroom in the fall are not the same ones who emerge in June. Sure, they're a little taller and their minds are filled with a plethora of new information and experiences. But, perhaps more importantly, they've gained the confidence to become lifelong learners. "I want them to have a love of learning and feel good about themselves," said Mrs. Jeffreys, who has taught at Miller Elementary School for 40 years. "I'm very positive and always point out the good things they're doing." Ever since she was young, Mrs. Jeffreys knew she wanted to be a third-grade teacher because of her own third-grade teacher, Mrs. Margaret Hartsuff at Brooklyn Elementary School. "Everything she did was fascinating to me and she was very inspiring and encouraging." Mrs. Jeffreys carried that same spirit into her own third-grade classroom. The first year was especially challenging as she adjusted to her role as teacher. There were only 14 students in her first class and about half of them lived in homes with dirt floors. A fair amount of her \$5,995 a year salary that year went to the kids for things like shoes and dental work. After teaching



third grade for 35 years, she took on the challenge of a third/fourth grade combination class for a year before moving on to fifth grade. With her fifth graders, she develops their love of learning in a classroom that she describes as structured but relaxed. She keeps the students moving around the room a lot and hands-on projects are often in the works. Book reports sometimes take the form of cereal boxes, where names like Zippity Puffs and Clue Crisps relate to the book's theme and the "ingredients" are the main characters. "Willow is, without hesitation, the most exceptional teacher my children have ever had," said a parent. "She can manage a classroom that is many layers

deep with learning abilities and keep every student excited to learn." (The complete article can be found in the Jackson Magazine, June 2011). At Columbia School District we have always known we had a gem in our mist, who truly exemplifies what a teacher should be not only to her students and their parents, but her leadership within her peer group and in the community. We fervently put the explanation point behind the title ... **2011 Top Teacher of the Year!**

2011 Spelling Bee Winners Circle



Rebecca Yang
BES 5th Grade



Maddie Kelly
MES 5th Grade



Emily Kelleher
CMS 6th Grade



Daniel Yonkers
CMS 7th Grade



Sydney Poulson
CMS 7th Grade



NEW! Boot Camp Classes: 30 minute workout - Tuesday & Thursday @ 5:45 p.m. Boot camp works your entire body— heart and muscles—by going from one exercise to another with no rest. The workouts involve calisthenics like pushups, jumping jacks, crunches and other body weight exercises...the difference lies in the intensity. In boot camp, your challenge is to take your body to its limit. You work, you sweat and, best of all, you burn calories like crazy!

NEW CLASSES!

Pilates on Wednesday mornings @ 7:30 a.m.

Boot Camp on Tuesday mornings @ 8:00 a.m. (30 minutes)

Yoga on Saturday mornings @ 9:00 a.m.

Spinning on Thursdays @ 5:00 p.m. - 45 minutes before Boot Camp

NEW! Strength Training Express: 6:15 - 7:00 p.m. - 45 minutes - Same class just a little shorter for the summer! Get in - Get your workout - Get out!

Please visit our website: www.ccfitnesscenter.org for all 25+ classes we offer and more info about us!

We also have 8 treadmills, 7 Ellipticals, 4 bikes, weight machines, free weights and much more so come out and ask about our "Free Week Pass" (new visitors only)

NEW! Ask about our monthly membership! (minimum one year commitment)

We're located at 11775 Hewitt Road on the south end of Columbia Central High School

517-592-3393

Open to the Public from all areas!

Testing Out of High School Courses

The Michigan Dept. of Education requires that students be allowed to test out of any courses offered at Columbia Central High School. Pursuing this option affords the students an opportunity to gain credit for a specific course that allows them to enhance and expand their educational opportunities by accelerating their academic program. Credit is earned by achieving a 78% or above on the final end-of-course assessment or by demonstrating mastery through the basic assessment process utilized in the course, which may consist of portfolio, project, paper, examination or presentations, or other appropriate measurements of competency. Students will receive a "P" on their transcript and will receive credit toward their graduation requirements, however, test out credits are *not recognized* by some colleges/universities. Contact specific colleges/universities directly if you have questions. Students will have only one chance to test out of each course. Credits earned through "testing out" will not be calculated in the student's GPA. Once credit is earned in a subject area, a student may not receive further credit for a lower sequence course in the same subject area. Results will be mailed to parents within two weeks of the completion of all portions of the test. Testing out applications are available in the high school office and on the school website beginning the first week of May. Exams will be given during the second week of August. Students will be contacted with exact dates and times.

Keeping Kids Healthy at Columbia!

The Coordinated School Health Team of Columbia has taken on many initiatives this year to promote healthy lifestyles among our staff and students. We recognize that physical activity, nutrition and a healthy school environment are important components to academic success. The School Food Guidelines were adopted by the School Board of Education in the spring of 2010. Since its adoption, many parents and staff have become aware of ways to incorporate some fun healthy food options within classroom and after school activities. Fruits, vegetables and whole grains have been turning up at many school functions. Because parents and staff are encouraging these foods in the classroom, they are setting positive examples for our students. Kids are learning about nutrition while enjoying some classic treats as well. We will kick off the 2011-2012 school year visiting the back to school open houses and will be available to offer suggestions for healthy classroom party ideas, creative snacks, encourage healthy breakfast and lunch options and much more. It is our goal that the School Food Guidelines will be fully implemented for the 2011-2012 school year. Our school district has been awarded a grant to decrease tobacco usage. With the grant funds, the CSHT has been able to purchase signage to post on school grounds to encourage our zero tolerance tobacco policy. Additionally, we have updated our anti tobacco curriculum for all building levels.

Sustained Achievement in MEAPs

Every year in Michigan students are required to take the Michigan Educational Assessment Program tests otherwise known as the MEAP test. This year the Columbia School District ranked above state average in 17 out of the 18 tested categories. Columbia School District also ranked first or second in Jackson County in 12 out of 18 categories. Developed by educators to measure student's knowledge and achievements in five core subjects including mathematics, reading, science, social studies, and writing the MEAP tests are given to students in third through ninth grade. "We have an excellent staff that adapts to curriculum changes and great parent and community support," said Superintendent of Schools Mr. Brent Beamish, explaining the district's success. He further amplified not only are the tests a measuring stick of how a school is performing, it provides insight to see if the whole district is meeting their curriculum objectives.

Columbia School District Newsletter

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BROOKLYN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



"Message from the Principal" — Ms. Debra Powell

It is hard to believe that it is already June. It seems just like yesterday that we were kicking off the school year with the Back to School BASH and the kids excitement of returning to school could be heard throughout the entire building! It has been a great year with many accomplishments achieved by staff, students, the BES PTO and many changes to take place in the coming school year for students, parents, teachers and our Columbia community. If you haven't heard, Brooklyn Elementary and Miller Elementary School are consolidating in the fall of 2011 and will become Columbia Elementary School (CES). As with any change, it can be a very difficult time because of the fear of uncertainty. However, it can also be a time of excitement, a time to thrive, and a time for our students, staff and families to experience the full benefit of our new school strengths. As they say, "Don't cry because it's over — Smile because it happened!" I am really looking forward to representing CES. My vision is to continue along the path of creating a strong literacy rich environment and provide the necessary support services for every student who enters the doors of CES. However, to be successful, staff, students, parents, and the community needs to rally around this common vision. The heart of the success of CES is a commitment to student achievement and developing life-long learners. So, as we finish up the 2010-2011 school year, we look forward to the beginning a new history. It surely will bring many new challenges and many great accomplishments. Have a safe and relaxing summer and see you in the fall at Columbia Elementary School!



Author Gives Audience a Chill

Brooklyn Elementary students got a special visit this spring by popular author Mr. Johnathan Rand. Mr. Rand, whose birth name is Christopher Wright and uses Christopher Knight for novels aimed at adults, is best known for his Michigan Chillers and American Chillers series of children's books. If you ask your son or daughter, it is likely they know who he is and has read one or several of his books. Mr. Rand told a captive audience stories of his life growing up, his time spent in college, and the experiences that rounded him into an author. Using humor and age appropriate scare tactics, he said books are like adventures. "Reading is not something that you do. Reading is an actual place you go," said Mr. Rand. He suggested that the real secret to reading is allowing yourself to go on the adventure. A student's name from each classroom was drawn from a hat before the assembly and received a signed edition from his "Chillers" series as the raucous crowd cheered the winners. Before parting he gave some important advice to would be authors. "Don't be a writer," he said, "be a rewriter."



Cute Pilot Pictured is Zachary McCourtie 2nd Grade

Energy for the Next Generation

Representatives from Consumers Energy recently visited Brooklyn Elementary to give some students tips on conserving natural resources. Their mission was simply to get teachers and students thinking and talking about ways to be energy efficient. "They were basically trying to tell us how to save energy in our houses," said fourth grade student Reagan Steele. Giving the students advice such as not letting water run while brushing their teeth and turning off lights were part of the days motto of "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle." Almost any "green" activity saves energy the speakers told the crowd. "I learned a water bottle recycled saves as much energy



that could power a light bulb for 18 hours," said Reagan. Safety tips and energy production were also covered in the assembly. Natural gas, coal, wind, and nuclear power were discussed and a modified bingo game was played to help drive home some of the points discussed. "I didn't know about all the different kinds of energy," said fourth grader Theo Crouse.



Hoops for Heart

Several grade levels at Brooklyn Elementary helped the American Heart Association by shooting baskets or jumping rope. "Hoops for Heart" is promoted by the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance and participating students obtained pledges for staying active for 40 minutes. "I'm really excited about today because my favorite thing is jumping rope," said third grader Makayla Morton, "I just can't stay still," she said. After proper stretching exercises led by teacher Mr. Paul McDonald, some students slung basketballs toward the nets as others vigorously jumped rope while popular music played in the background. Members from the PTO were on hand to dole out healthy snacks and offer words of inspiration. Classes and individual students who brought in the most money were awarded prizes for their efforts. "My amount was about fifteen dollars. I got some from my dad, my grandma, and my mom," said third grade student Abby Crane. The AAHPERD promotes physical activity in childhood that can lead to improved strength and endurance, reduce stress and anxiety, and helps control weight. "Hoops for Heart" is a platform the students can use to include physical activity as a life long habit.



Hallmark Bound

Ms. Terri Kandell's classroom at Brooklyn Elementary took on the ultimate recycling project this past semester. The students gathered used paper and turned it into a usable form again. Destined to become stationary, bookmarks, or cards the new paper is being sold to raise funds for the school's garden. "We plan on getting two rain barrels and compost," said Ms. Kandell. These self-proclaimed "Tree Saving Warriors" run a busy assembly line by cutting pieces of paper and organic matter into small pieces to be soaked over night. "It can't be huge pieces," warned fifth grader Zach Niceswander. The mixture is then put into a blender to be turned into pulp. Once properly blended the pulp is spread onto a screen where the water is squeezed out. "I like when you put your hands in the goey stuff," said third grade student D.J. Cole. The paper is then stripped from the screen and laid on a piece of felt to dry. As the paper dries it takes on different hues as well as textures because of dyes and organic matter included in the process. "We add seeds so you can plant the paper after you are done with it," said Ms. Kandell.



Brooklyn Students' Excitement Soars with Visit to Airport

Jeffrey Fisher

Director Aviation Technology, Jackson Community College

With reading, the sky's the limit! Children from Columbia's Brooklyn Elementary earned a special reward for their accomplishments during March, Reading Month, a visit to Jackson Community College's Flight Center at the Jackson County Airport. "The whole school participated in Reading Month in March," said Debra Powell, Brooklyn Elementary principal. "We wanted to do something special for the winners, so the top two from each class are getting this special trip to tour the airport flight center." The theme for Reading Month was superheroes, so learning about flight seemed a perfect fit, she said. The students were eager for a chance to visit the airport, and that spurred many on to build up points during reading month. Jeff Fisher, director of aviation technology for JCC, treated the 25 top readers in kindergarten through fifth grade to a tour of JCC's airplane hangar and let each one take a turn sitting inside one of the College's Cessna airplane. They also had the chance to go up into the airport tower and look out over the airport and horizon. Michael Bartholomew, aircraft maintenance technician, gave students a glimpse of a plane's engine and explained about how it works. "We think this was a really great way to get the youngsters involved in reading," Powell said.

Grab a Plate of Appreciation

Brooklyn Elementary Principal Ms. Deb Powell has a popular way of showing her appreciation for all that the volunteers do for the school. She feeds them a meal. The annual event is pegged as the Volunteer Breakfast and everyone who donated time to school functions was invited. Mentors from Brooklyn Buddies, PTO members, high school leadership students, and classroom volunteers are an example of some of the people on hand. "We invite everyone who has volunteered in our building," said Principal Powell via email, "It's a small way to say thanks for all you do."



MILLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Math Madness

For a few months during the school year Miller Elementary gave students a chance to round out their math skills on Tuesdays after school. Called Math Madness, students were able to rotate each week between classrooms that offer different math challenges. "The target group is "at-risk" students," said Principal Mr. Geoffrey Bontrager. This is another platform for the students to learn basic math skills that may have been lost in a busy classroom. "I use things like songs and hands-on exercises," said teacher Ms. Lindsay Slusher, "Stuff we don't always have time for in class." Mr. Bontrager went on to say that there isn't any doubt this program creates positive results reflected in MEAP and other test scores.



Rocking and Reading

Across the nation March is known as Reading Month and the Miller Elementary PTO wanted to get the children involved in a unique event called Rock-A-Thon. The two-day event was held in the library where students read books during designated times while sitting in comfortable rocking chairs on loan from parents and teachers. Beforehand, students gathered pledges from family and friends based on their participation. "I think it's a really good idea," said third grader Jeff Gibson. When asked what books he enjoyed reading Jeff said, "American Chillers by Johnathan Rand. They are stories about kids having amazing adventures." Each student who participated received a small prize but they all had their eye on the big one. "If you get fifty dollars in pledges your name goes into a Michigan Adventure drawing," said Jeff. PTO President Jill Miller said the money raised will go for technology updates.



Art in the House

As part of a series of after school activities offered at Miller Elementary School this past winter Family Art Night was enjoyed by students and their parents. Guided by artist Ms. Kim McGowen, parents and students enjoyed a brief history of several artists and then were given the opportunity to replicate some of the artist's work using their own ideas and abilities. "This program is a chance to explore the artistic side of students and it is fun," explained Ms. McGowen. She also went on to say that the artists discussed were trying to establish a sense of community in their work. Therefore, house paintings were the main subject for the children's creations. "My house is going to fly in outer space," said fifth grade student Abigail Grenke, "I've done one of these before. I know it is going to turn out good, probably," she said. Several members of the high school Key Club were on hand to help make things run smoothly as the busy young artists worked diligently on their projects. "This is fun and you can spend time with your family," said second grader Grace Willoughby.



Cody Richardson (Coach) is practicing PALS with Mac Elder (Reader)

PALS in Action!

The Kindergarten students in Ms. Trudy Kelly's class practice all of their letter sounds, blending decodable words and reading simple sight words using a research-based reading intervention called PALS (Peer-Assisted Learning Strategies) from Vanderbilt University. Every student has a "PAL" that they read with. All students take turn being a "Coach" and a "Reader." During each reading exercise the coach encourages and helps the reader by telling them "Good job!" when they come to a star on the paper.



Michaela Hauer (Coach) is listening to Layne Sleight (Reader)



"Message from the Principal" - Mr. Geoff Bontrager

Miller Elementary School completed another very successful and rewarding school year. The 2010-2011 school year included after school events such as Geography Night, Family Science Night, Miller Math Madness, Nursery Rhyme Family Time, as well as other events such as Quiz Bowl, the Hope Run, Mackinac Trip, and Field Day. The MES PTO was once again second to none in financially providing programs, supplies, and activities which would not be possible without their support. Students were recognized monthly for all the positive attributes they were demonstrating by way of the Tree of Recognition (Character Education), Student of the Month, and the Eagle Excellence Programs. Teachers and support staff were commended on preparing our students for the administration of the MEAP Test, which once again resulted in excellent scores. The staff at MES has worked diligently to recognize all of the great achievements and fine attributes of our kids, which was reflected through the implementation of "The Nurtured Heart Approach" school wide. Solutions2Wellbeing recognized MES as a model school and spent two days filming the examples of "greatness" of our students and staff. Our Student Council was once again acknowledged by The National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and was presented the 2010-2011 ASCA Honor Student Council Excellence Award. This nationally recognized award was presented to MES for the tenth consecutive school year. Schools receiving this award have demonstrated excellence in leadership training, community service, and a dynamic school spirit. We're proud of the effort that our student council undertook in continuing to lead the school in "Being Green." As a result of the effort MES was rewarded with the only "Evergreen" award in Jackson County. MES was identified this year from the Michigan Department of Education for "beating the odds" by overachieving in reference to student academic performance. Although, it is a bittersweet school year with the building closing, it has been a great school year and a great tribute to Miller Elementary and The Columbia School District! A special thanks goes out to the community, grandparents, and parents, as well as our teaching staff, support staff, and students who throughout the years have made this school very special to all of us!



Flying High

First grade students at Miller Elementary assembled to listen to flight instructor Mr. Jeff Fisher from the JCC Aviation Program and gained some insight on what it takes to be a pilot and various other facts about flying. Giving a spirited dialogue, Mr. Fisher talked about such subjects as maintenance schedules, different parts of the plane, how fast they flew, the number of pilots required, safety procedures, and age requirement for pilots. The boys and girls sat in amazement as they learned that even they could fly a plane since there are no restrictions on age in order to get your pilot's license. Bombarded with questions such as "do planes have horns" and "what happens when you run out of gas" Mr. Fisher was kept busy reassuring the young students that flying was the safest mode of transportation in the world. First grader Sabin Tackett thought it was interesting "that some airplanes don't have engines." Those, she said, are called "gliders."