

Crawford School Newsletter

May 2015

Families and Friends of Crawford-Excelsior District #1 Public School:

It is sad to think we have already come to the end of the 2014-2015 school year. Where has all the time gone? It seems to go faster every year, as our children grow up so quickly. However, we have great memories of good times with our family of teachers and students. The times we spend with all of them, are so special. This year has been a huge year of accomplishment for all of our teachers and students, due to the great amount of changes that have been made to fit into the State of Michigan's Education Curriculum. As our state test evolved from the original MEAP Test to the M-Step Test, Crawford has completed testing all Third through Eighth Grade students. This was very difficult due to the size of our school. Our classrooms were moved around a little bit; however, our school came out of all of it this year, smelling like a rose with success. We owe a huge thanks to each of our teachers for such a good job; Jenn Begley (K-2nd grades), Heather Horn (3-5th grades), Sue Lawrence (6- 8th grades). Sherry Carlisle, our Title I Teacher's Assistant, was a great help, especially, working with our readers. Thank you Karen Hart for all of your loving dedication to our school. Your assistance in keeping us all on track with new, upcoming educational information and much more has been invaluable! Linda Graham, our music teacher really does a great job of opening the hearts and voices of our children with great melodies, thank you! Our substitute teachers have been a huge help this year, Mr. Dick Gilmour and Mr. Monte Strong, Mrs. Jackie Hart thank you for a job well done.

Kudos and love to our bus driver, Dwen Bontrager, for another safe year for our children. Dwen always willingly helps with our general maintenance at the school, thank you, Ruth Bontrager, our appreciation for a beautiful, clean school goes out to you. Angie Kelly-Marvin, thank you for doing such a nice job on our daily nutritional snacks for the students. Thank you to all of our parents, who have helped with hot lunches, fundraising, and many other events this year. We welcome our newest school board member, Sherry Dingee, treasurer, to the Crawford School Board.

The expertise of our teachers, continues to shine through, as each of our students reach their goals and are able to move onto bigger accomplishments. Most recently, Crawford School students participated in "My Michigan Hero," a writing contest sponsored through Farm Bureau Insurance.

Ethan Hicks, one of our eighth graders received an award in the contest. Congratulations Ethan! This year was another great year for our spellers. Garrett Coan won The Kalkaska Spelling Bee, while his younger brother, Nicholas Coan came in fourth place. Congratulations Garrett and Nicholas! The students all, learned about nutrition this year, and tried various fruits and vegetables, while taking information home to include in a healthier life style. Our Eighth Grade Class was able to go to Grand Rapids this year from May 13th – May 15th. They had a blast! We are very grateful to all of our families and community for their assistance in volunteering, which has helped make this year such a success. So far, our enrollment, for the upcoming year is looking pretty good.

Congratulations to all of our students for their continued hard work and accomplishment in completing another successful year at Crawford School. Have a Great Summer!

Sincerely,
Lori K. Coan
Crawford - Excelsior #1 School Board

Graduation Ceremony for Kindergarten and Eighth Grades

The Graduation Program for 2014-2015 was held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27th, at the Forest Area High School on Shippy Road. It is nice that so many past and present students, families, friends, and community residents were able to join us as four eighth graders and five Kindergarteners moved on to levels of higher learning.

School Board

School Board meetings are now held on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 2:30 pm at the schoolhouse.

School Board Members: Lori Coan, President, Sherry Dingee, Treasurer, Angie Kelly-Marvin, Secretary

Eighth Grade Fundraisers and Class Trip

The eighth grade class collected returnable containers and sold popcorn to help raise money for their trip to Grand Rapids. They went to the IMAX Movie Theater, Craig's Cruisers, SkyZone Trampoline Park, and the Planetarium. It was a great trip.

Thank you to the chaperones and everyone who helped throughout the year to make this trip possible. A very special thank you to Darcie Hicks for making popcorn every Friday and to Annette Kniss for taking care of the returnables.

Testing Changes

Students in grades 3-8 took the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-Step) test this year. This is the test that has replaced the MEAP Test. Each student used a laptop computer to complete the test.

Special Visitors to Crawford School

Mr. Tom Dale, a naturalist in education from the Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve paid us a visit again this year. He told the students about the "Bears". The students always enjoy his visit.

We also enjoyed several visits from a team of nutrition facilitators, Mrs. Roth and Mrs. Wandel, from Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District who came to teach the students about healthy eating.

Great Lakes Energy came to visit us with an electricity demonstration. We learned about safety, what to do if there is a downed power line, the tools they use, and how they climb power poles. It was a great presentation.



Fundraising Activities - we are asking for your support

Did you know you have money for Crawford School sitting in your cupboards? It's true, we collect many labels from your everyday food items and the school gets cash for them. The following is a list of the items you can help us collect.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION: Cut out 10 cent box tops for education logo on participating products. They must have the expiration date on them to be valid. These are worth 10 cents each. You can also visit www.bboxtopsforeducation.com and sign up to receive e-mails and enter contests for yourself and the school.

CAMPBELLS LABELS FOR EDUCATION: Please clip and save only the UPC bar codes, these would include all Campbell's, Swanson and Franco American products. The lids of V8 products have to be collected instead of the bar code. Please rinse the caps so they aren't sticky. Go to www.labelsforeducation.com for more information.

SPARTAN products UPC's. Northland and Family Fare are now carrying Spartan products; this is a great opportunity to get in the habit of removing the UPC as you use the products. The UPC bar code has SPARTAN printed above it and must be included on the clipped UPC code to be valid.

Soft N Good Bread gives us .05 for every UPC. Cut out the UPC code with the words "school spirit" which must be included to be valid. For more information you can go to: www.schoolspiritprograms.com.

TYSON FROZEN PRODUCTS - The very top of the bag, which you remove to open the product, can be saved and we get .25 a tab. There is an ABC symbol on it with a small chalk board.

Thank you for your help.

Thank You

- ◆ Thank you to Ruth Bontrager for the wonderful job of keeping our school so clean and neat.
- ◆ What would we do without our bus driver? Thank you Dwen Bontrager!
- ◆ Thank you to the Kalkaska Kaliseum for hosting us for swimming and skating lessons.
- ◆ Thank you to the Kniss family for their generous donation to the swimming and skating program.
- ◆ The students and staff would like to thank the Crawford School Board for all that they do! We especially want to thank them for allowing the whole school to go to Traverse City and enjoy the Disney movie, "Monkey Kingdom", as well as our trips to the Kalkaska Public Library, and Hayo Went Ha.
- ◆ The 3rd graders are enjoying their dictionaries from Kalkaska Kiwanis, thanks so much for your donation to our students.
- ◆ The teachers of Crawford would like to thank Mr. Dick Gilmour, Monte Strong, and Jackie Hart for all of their hard work in the classrooms as guest teachers throughout the 2014-2015 school year.
- ◆ We don't know what we would do without Karen Hart. She does so much to help out the school and the teaching staff and we really appreciate her.
- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. Sheppard organized our school parties this past year and we would like to thank them for all of their hard work.
- ◆ The students at Crawford enjoyed fruit each and every day for snack which was provided by Angie Marvin, we want to thank her for purchasing, washing, cutting, and delivering the fruit to the school. She was right on top of things and it was enjoyed by all.
- ◆ Thank you to the Kalkaska County Library and Mr. Bradley and Ms. Rachel for allowing the students to visit once a month. Everyone really looked forward to these visits.

- ◆ Crawford's Christmas Program and Graduation were held at the Forest Area School. Thank you to them for letting us use their school.
- ◆ Thank you to Linda Graham for sharing her musical talents with the students.
- ◆ We appreciate the staff from TBAISD who assists us.
- ◆ Darcie Hicks volunteered to listen to the students read. Thanks, Darcie.
- ◆ Thank you to all the parents who helped with hot lunch this year. The students and the staff look forward to those special lunches.
- ◆ Thank you to Michelle Moegenberg and Michael Linguar for helping the students and teachers with our new testing programs.
- ◆ Thank you to Grant Blesma and Doug Anger from TBA for keeping our internet, I Pads, and computers running.
- ◆ Thanks to all of the parents and grandparents who have donated supplies for the school throughout the year (tissue, disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, plastic ware, etc.).
- ◆ Thank you, Rod Lawrence, for keeping our website up to date.
- ◆ This year Christy and Joe Rapoza took care of the box-tops and labels this year. We appreciate their time in assembling and submitting them as it provides another fund-raising option for us.

Website and Facebook Page

Be sure to visit the Crawford School Facebook page and also our website at crawfordschool.com

Classroom News

The 2014-2015 school year started off on September 4, 2014. The students came in excited with smiling faces. This year we continued our visits to the Kalkaska County Library on a monthly basis. The students enjoyed having a variety of books to read. The library continued the "prize" program with the middle school students. Thanks, Rachel, for coming up with such good ideas. The students look forward to their monthly library visits.

In November the entire school enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner prepared by Bob Evans. Thank you to Steve Morley and his staff who came to set it up for us. We hope to be able to do this again next year.

For eight weeks during the winter months the 3-8 classes visited the Kaliseum to participate in swimming and skating lessons for physical education. This is always a fun activity for the students.

In December we started practicing and rehearsing for our annual Christmas program. The program was held at the Forest Area High School. The students presented several seasonal songs. All who attended had a joyful time listening to the children and visiting with other families afterward. The students ended the 2014 year at school with a Christmas party and gift exchange.

Once again, Mr. Tom Dale, from Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve, came and presented "Bears" to the students and staff in February.

In March Mrs. Lawrence took the eighth graders to the Career Tech Center to explore the opportunities that will be available to them at the CTC when they become tenth graders. They enjoyed the day and were impressed with the facility.

We had two fundraisers this year to help fund the 8th grade trip. Mrs. Hicks made popcorn on Friday for them to sell, and Mrs. Kniss organized a pop can/bottle drive. The 8th graders went to Grand Rapids in May.

To celebrate Earth Day the whole school enjoyed a bus trip to Traverse City to see the Disney movie "Monkey Kingdom". This was a great movie and we all enjoyed the trip.

Thanks to a former Crawford Student, Tonya Strong Wuerfel, we were invited to participate in the reading program sponsored by the Traverse City Beach Bums "Read Around the Bases". If students read the required number of books they received tickets to a Beach Bums game.

Some of our students participated in the Pizza Hut Book-It program. In this program students who read the required number of minutes received a coupon for a free Pizza Hut pizza.

Dr. Troy Stobert visited the school to talk to the students about dental care. Each student received a bag that contained a toothbrush and dental floss.

Once again the Crawford School students placed first in the Children's Parade during the National Trout Festival. Thank you to Patti Vaneps for another great idea and for helping the children create their fish.

Ms. Begley's K-2 class went to Kalkaska Memorial Hospital to learn about the different departments in the hospital.

We will be traveling to Hayo-Went-Ha again this year. This is always a fun trip for the students.

We all warmed up our singing voices and performed for Graduation May 27th at Forest Area High School on Shippy Road in Fife Lake. Thank you for your piano skills, Mrs. Linda Graham.



Spelling Bee

The 2015 Crawford School Spelling bee was held on January 14th. It was an exciting competition right down to the final word. The top three finalists received gift cards from BC Pizza.

The top 10 places plus alternates:

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| 1. Garrett Coan (6th grade) | 6. Matt Ellis (8th grade) |
| 2. Lily Klein (5th grade) | 7. Nicholas Coan (5th grade) |
| 3. Alydia Klay (7th grade) | 8. Kaila Martindale (7th grade) |
| 4. Olivia Cotton (7th grade) | 9. Ethan Hicks (8th grade) |
| 5. Ian Miller (8th grade) | 10. Caleb Hicks (5th grade) |
- Alternates: Josiah Strong (5th grade), Josh Haller (6th grade), Matt Kniss (8th grade)

These ten Crawford School spellers other 5th through 8th graders from Forest Area and Kalkaska at the Kalkaska County Spelling Bee. Garrett Coan out-spelled everyone else and won the 2015 Kalkaska County championship. Two of our students moved on to the Regional Spelling Bee, those students were: Garrett Coan and Nicholas Coan. The spelling bee was held at the State Theater in downtown Traverse City. Congratulations to everyone on another terrific spelling competition! We are so proud of our students.

Annual School Picnic

The annual School Picnic will be held on the final school day of the year, Thursday, June 4, 2015. The lunch will begin at 11:00am, rain or shine. Everyone is invited to attend the potluck lunch and to join with the current Crawford School students in the celebration of the final school day.

Title I

We have been fortunate to have the services of Mrs. Sherry Carlisle, Title I aide, again this year. The students have progressed in their learning with the help of these services.

Fall Enrollment for Grades K through 8

Parents and guardians may pre-register their children at Crawford School for the 2015-2016 school year in grades Kindergarten through Eighth by calling the schoolhouse at 258.2934. We are also taking applications for students who live out of the Excelsior District #1 school district. Interested parents and guardians can also call Karen Hart 231.369.3126 for more information.

Questions Regarding Our School - Call Angie Marvin 231.384.3548

Teaching Staff: ■ K-2 Ms. Jenn Begley ■ 3-5 Mrs. Heather Horn ■ 6-8 Mrs. Sue Lawrence
■ Title I - Mrs. Sherry Carlisle ■ Bus Driver - Dwen Bontrager ■ Custodian - Ruth Bontrager

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Crawford School
5512 M-72 NE
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Annual School Picnic, June 4
- ◆ Fall Enrollment
- ◆ First day of the 2015-2016 school year - Tuesday, September 8, 2015