



"We cannot direct the wind but we can adjust the sails." – Author Unknown

I think this is a wonderful quote that describes the changes we are facing in public education. We may not be able to change the laws on teacher tenure, evaluation, school reform, parent empowerment, 80/20 co-pay insurance premiums or many others, but we do have the ability to "adjust" our personal and professional "sails".

What I'm suggesting is, as an employee of Bay-Arenac ISD, we have choices. We can sit back and be angry about the changes that have happened. We can point our finger at others and say "look what they did to us", or we can make statements such as "Don't they know that we work with children each and every day and we care deeply about them?", or "Aren't they aware that our students have all kinds of social, emotional and physical disorders?". "Don't these leaders realize that so many of our children come from troubled homes?" These kids just have difficult lives. Why can't the leaders in Lansing understand that we didn't choose this profession to hurt children?" WE can continue to blame others for something that might not ever change.

OR, we can begin to adjust our sails to face the winds of change. I challenge each of you to look at these new laws as an opportunity to set a new course in education. Our Mission at Bay-Arenac ISD has always been our true north. No matter what others might say or do, our mission is clear. We all believe in "Educational Excellence". As employees of this great organization we have faced many challenges over the years, but nothing has stopped us from achieving educational excellence.

These new laws will not change or weaken our resolve. Our students care little that these laws were enacted; they care less which political party casted the deciding vote. What they do care about is how WE can help them to be successful. That's it. It's that simple.

So don't give up, don't blame others. It really is all about a positive attitude. Set your personal and professional sails toward excellence. Rise above the waves of negative comments. Look toward our future as an opportunity to achieve more. Prove to yourself and to others that we are professional educators. We are proud of the job we do and the children we help.

Stand up and cheer "WE ARE PROUD OF WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE STAND FOR; WE ARE BAY-ARENAC ISD EDUCATORS."

**Michael R. Dewey, Superintendent**





## A Celebration of Dedication

Cathy LaLonde, Agriscience instructor at the Career Center, had the opportunity to honor one of her charter Advisory Committee Members, Mr. Dick Somalski. He was recognized not only for his contributions to the Agriscience program, but also for his friendship and guidance for over 40 years. Cathy presented Mr. Somalski with a plaque acknowledging his years of service at her Advisory Committee meeting in November.

Mr. Somalski is one of the original committee members for the program which began as "Horticulture" back in 1972. He, along with a handful of other community leaders, was one of the visionaries that helped lay the foundation for the Career Center project when it was still an empty field back in the early 1970's. Thanks to his encouragement and recommendations through the years, the program has evolved into what is now known as "Agriscience" and encompasses yesterday's hard-working standards with today's science and technology. This blend of knowledge has created an exciting and relevant learning environment for young people today, who have an interest in the preservation and continued growth of our natural resources. His strong support of the FFA program has further enhanced the Agriscience program. In addition, Dick has encouraged students to become involved with the Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association and has greeted them and guided them at the MNLA Expo in Grand Rapids. He has been actively involved in assisting students with the design of the Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center project house through the years, as well.

Hats off to Mr. Dick Somalski for his years of dedication to the Career Center! We especially recognize his positive impact on the Agriscience program, as we look forward to future contributions from him.



## Lights ... Cameras ... and A lot of Action!

What does a make-up artist, sweet and sassy salmon, and the White House all have in common? One chef by the name of Andy Bacigalupo, instructor in the Culinary Arts, Tourism and Hospitality Management program at the Career Center, that's what! Trying to keep up with Chef Andy could prove to be quite challenging as he began the third week in November hosting the first-ever student Iron Chef – Cooking Up Success Competition. Andy, along with counselor Valerie Gerhart, pulled together 8 teams of students from program areas throughout the building. If you are a fan of the syndicated Iron Chef program, then you get an idea of what the students were up against. Each team had to create a dish from one common table that included plenty of fresh vegetables, chicken, pasta, sauces, and spices. The judges had the delicious task of selecting the best dishes. It was a win-win for all involved.

Chef Andy didn't stop there however. Also in his "stew" pot that week, he made another appearance on the Dr. Oz show to celebrate their 400th episode. Andy showcased his Sweet & Sassy Salmon, and you can bet that all of America wrote down that recipe. As a result of Andy's visit to the show, Dr. Mehmet Oz, along with Lowe's, has donated \$10,000 and Kitchen Aid appliances to the Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center as the Culinary Arts program continues the "Chefs Move to Schools" initiative. Next up, the Cooking Channel traveled across the country to film the students who are involved in the Team Nutrition program at the Career Center. Team Nutrition is fighting against childhood obesity, which is a part of First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" campaign.

Although Andy has been invited to the holiday show at the White House, one of the five chefs nationwide who have been invited, he might have some difficulty fitting it in to his ever-hecktic schedule. Congratulations to Chef Andy for all of his hard work!

# Adult Education & Special Education

## Manufacturing Classes offered through Adult Education

The Adult Education Department offers a number of classes in the manufacturing field. These classes meet at the Career Center in the evenings and provide area adults an opportunity to learn on state-of-the-art equipment at very reasonable tuition rates.

Winter classes begin on January 16 2012 and registration for those classes will begin on January 4.

Pictured is veteran Adult Education Instructor, Dave Buchmann (far right), with students Robert Roy (middle) and Tom Quinn (far left) in the Machine Trades class.

Other manufacturing classes offered are, Computerized Numerical Control (CNC), Blueprint Reading, Introduction to Drafting and CAD, 4 levels of Arc Welding, and Introductory and Advanced Mig and Tig Welding.



## Disability Mentoring Day

Students from John Glenn, Bay City Central and Western High Schools took part in the Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) Program that was held on October 25th at Bay Regional Medical Center. DMD is a national job-shadow and career exploration program designed to link students and job-seekers with disabilities to employers interested in hiring people with disabilities. We have modeled our program after the American Association of People with Disabilities' program, which coordinates a national network of nearly 400 DMDs. BRMC's participation was spearheaded by Greg Purtell, BRMC's Vice President of Human Resources and coordinating with Mary-Eileen Goss, Transition Coordinator from Bay-Arenac and staff from the local districts. Students were welcomed by Alice Gerard, BRMC President/CEO, followed by presentations from Kathy Roberts, Human Resources Manager, on an overview of the hospital and job opportunities at BRMC.

Students were then taken on tours of Human Resources, The Emergency Department, Diagnostic Imaging, Laboratory, Admissions, and Dietary.

Great Lakes BLN Members have the opportunity to impact the career aspirations of students with disabilities. Students from throughout our eight county region participated in job-shadowing during the day-long event. Disability Mentoring Day can open up a whole new world of possibilities, both for students with disabilities and for member businesses.

Great Lakes BLN Members participating this year are: Bay Regional Medical Center, Chemical Bank, Covenant Health Care, Dow Corning/Hemlock Semiconductor, Great Lakes Loons, MidMichigan Health, Tata Consultancy Services, The Dow Chemical Company, The Auburn Township Fire Department and Auburn Township offices.

# Instructional Services

## Introducing the Common Core State Standards

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) recently finalized the final Kindergarten-12 Common Core State Standards documents that will impact 48 states, two territories, and the District of Columbia. These English language arts and mathematics standards represent a set of expectations for student knowledge and skills that high school graduates need to master to succeed in college and careers. To develop these standards, CCSSO and the NGA Center worked with representatives from participating states, a wide range of educators, content experts, researchers, national organizations, and community groups. These final standards reflect the invaluable feedback from the general public, teachers, parents, business leaders, states, and content area experts and are well-informed by the standards of other high performing nations. The Common Core State Standards are:

- Aligned with college and work expectations;
- Include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order skills;
- Build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards;
- Informed by top-performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society; and
- Evidence and/or research-based.



The following professional learning opportunities have been designed by the Great Lakes Bay Instructional Services consultants (from Bay-Arenac ISD, Midland County ESA and Saginaw ISD) to assist local educators in learning more about the new standards and to plan ahead for changing assessments at the state level which will be phased in over the next few years (including regular and special education):

- Implementing the Common Core Roll-out Sessions (multiple dates currently being held at Valley Plaza). To register go to [www.baisd.net](http://www.baisd.net) and click on the Professional Development tab.
- February 6, 2012 Regional Professional Development Day focused on CCSS.
- Individual school and district training provided upon request.
- Curriculum mapping/pacing to the Common Core provided upon request.
- Digging Deeper sessions planned for Winter/Spring 2012.



For more information about the Common Core State Standards you may visit:

Common Core State Standards Initiative Home  
[www.corestandards.org/](http://www.corestandards.org/)  
Michigan's Mission Possible  
[www.missionliteracy.com](http://www.missionliteracy.com)  
Great Lakes Bay Instructional Services Department  
[www.greatlakesbayinstruction.org](http://www.greatlakesbayinstruction.org)



# Living and Learning Center - Arenac Campus

The Living and Learning Center – Arenac Campus was filled with excitement as the ribbon cutting ceremony on October 27, 2011 presented the final stage of waiting. Our new Multi- Purpose room was officially completed and ready for students and staff to enjoy.

BAISD school officials were in attendance and offered praise for those who were relentless about getting a room for exercise, physical activity, assemblies, and special events.

Students watched the entire process with great anticipation - from the ground breaking, through the cement trucks, laying of the foundation, walls going up, painting , flooring and the realization of something very special... a place to call their own.

Prior to this event, students exercised in the cafeteria or their classrooms. Special programs were held there and in various places throughout the community. This was a long time coming and will be used daily.

It was only a few weeks after the ceremony that Mr. Dewey himself dropped by and joined some students for a few shots with the basketball.

The classroom teachers have collaborated and have defined times for the “gym”, with such activities going on now such as exercise, volleyball, scooter games and physical therapy.

Everyone looks forward to “our time” and it does help with the energy level, team spirit, and is great fun.



# Living and Learning Center



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## Our Mission: Educational Excellence

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The Bay-Arenac ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, height, weight, religion or marital status in any of its programs, activities or employment. Inquiries regarding this policy should be directed to: Director of Staff & Organizational Development, 4228 Two Mile Rd., Bay City, Michigan 48706, Telephone (989) 686-4410