Confucius Classroom Promotes Cultural Reach

Brownsburg Community School Corporation’s mission statement includes preparing students “to live productively and responsibly in a technical, global society.” Closely aligned to this vision is the Chinese language and culture program that has grown over the past four years to include elementary programs at Cardinal and Reagan, high school credit-generating classes at both middle schools and the high school, as well as planning for an Advanced Placement course at the high school level in 2010.

Because of the K-12 opportunities and the continued outreach in the state of Indiana, the BCSC was recently designated a Confucius Classroom by Hanban, the Office of Chinese Language Council International of the Ministry of Education of People’s Republic of China. Brownsburg is honored to be named the fifth school district in the United States to achieve Confucius Classroom designation, and one of approximately 60 in the world.

The Confucius Classroom in Brownsburg will work with the Confucius Institute in Indianapolis, another recent designee, the International School in Indianapolis, and other partners to promote Chinese language and culture throughout Indiana, across the United States, and around the world.

To help maintain the corporation-wide program, Hanban will provide funds and other resources, including two additional Chinese language teachers and books to aid in instruction of both language and culture for a period of three to five years. In addition, $30,000 in startup money (which is renewable) will provide for Chinese cultural displays, hardware and software for multimedia, and culturally appropriate materials for guests visiting from China.

According to Associate Superintendent Jan Viars, “This international designation as a leader in the teaching of Chinese language and culture is an honor for BCSC. It not only validates our commitment to the teaching of a critical language and for preparing our students for global experiences, it accelerates the plan to have opportunities for cultural exchanges for students, parents, and staff.”
Many thanks to those whose efforts support the education of our children

I was at a meeting the other day. (I go to many of those!!), However, this one was special. In the room were 22 people who were there because they want to help our schools. There were businessmen and businesswomen, retired people, moms and dads, and three teachers. The conversation revolved around the organization of many projects all of which had one purpose in mind—raising money to support the initiatives of teachers and students of our school corporation. No fame, no recognition, no reward to the people involved except that in their hearts they know they are making a difference for our children. This particular group of people was the Brownsburg Education Foundation. What an impact they have had on our schools and teachers and children. Over the course of the Foundation’s 21 years of existence, they have organized a myriad of fund-raising projects and they have given over $913,000 to student scholarships and teacher projects!

But the fact is that the Brownsburg Education Foundation is just one wonderful example of the many groups in our schools that support our children. Parent Support Groups at every school, Band Boosters, Athletic Boosters, Parent Voice, Oasis Academic Tutors, Bulldog Dads, the list goes on and on. Through fund-raising, chaperoning, organizing events, tutoring, sewing costumes, or moving props, these dedicated parents and friends help schools offer a rich variety of special experiences for all students.

I don’t say “thanks” often enough or loud enough. So, let me shout it out! Thanks to every volunteer for playing such a huge role in giving our children wonderful opportunities that they will always remember.

Brownsburg Education Foundation Elects New Directors

The Brownsburg Education Foundation recently elected nine new members to the volunteer Board of Directors. New directors include: Jayme Adelsperger, Pam Ancel, Steve Floyd, Joshua Kendrick, Linda Krampen, Mike Martz, Mike Miller, Kevin Shelley, and Tammy Wiley, all of Brownsburg.

The new directors recently began their three year term at the Foundation Board of Directors meeting and new member orientation session. The total number of BEF directors is 30.

“Increased corporate support and successful fund raising programs of the Brownsburg Education Foundation enabled the foundation to present $78,500 this year for student scholarships and awards for innovative classroom learning,” said BEF President Richard Sutton. “This is possible because of dedicated volunteer commitment and support from the community, including our corporate partner Adelsperger Orthodontics.

For more information about the Brownsburg Education Foundation, or to volunteer, please call (317) 852-5726, ext. 1755 or visit the web site at www.brownsburg.k12.in.us/ foundation.

Breakfast at School Everyday

Did you know that breakfast is the most important meal of your child’s day? It provides the nutrients and energy he or she needs to concentrate in school. Research even shows that kids who eat breakfast get better grades, pay more attention in class, and behave better.

Sometimes in the morning hustle and bustle a nutritious breakfast can get missed. Your child’s school cafeteria can help your child begin the day on the right foot with a school breakfast for only $1.35. (Children who qualify for free lunch also receive free breakfast, and children who qualify for reduced lunch receive reduced price breakfast for $.30.)

The BCSC breakfast meets 1/3 of the daily requirement in calories, has less than 30% of calories from total fat, and less than 10% of calories from saturated fat. It is also below 1300 mg of sodium, and provides at least 1/3 of the daily requirements in iron, calcium, and vitamins A and C.

Students have the choice of a hot breakfast or cereal.
BCSC Expects Deeper Budget Cuts

Brownsburg, along with most other school districts in Indiana, is experiencing the most fiscally challenging period in anyone’s memory. The BCSC worked successfully last year to make over $2 million in reductions with such measures as freezing wages, reducing hours, reducing staff, and a variety of more innovative and aggressive measures. (The complete list is available on the BCSC web site or click here). Although those reductions impacted the quality of education to students as minimally as possible, the BCSC must already confront a deficit of over a million dollars for 2010, and those cuts will, no doubt, hit closer to the classroom.

The factors affecting the new budget are these:

1. The enrollment of 100 additional students did not materialize. Because each student represents $5,700, the addition of only 79 students represents a shortfall of approximately $115,000.

2. The State budget did not renew “new facility” money, previously awarded to schools to help with startup costs of new buildings. Anticipated for the Senior Academy and Reagan Elementary, this reduced revenue by an additional $630,102.

3. The BCSC must increase its contribution to the retirement funds for all teachers hired after 1995 (approximately 75% of all existing BCSC faculty) by 0.5% beginning July 1, 2010, which will result in an additional $88,213 shortfall beginning July 1, 2010.

4. The impact of the “circuit breaker” limits on property tax at 1.5% for 2009 is a loss of another $220,000 - an impact significantly greater for Brownsburg Schools than other taxing entities in the County. Losses for 2010 will be considerably greater when the circuit breaker drops to 1%. All funds, other than the General Fund and Special Ed Preschool Funds, will be further reduced by this number. Click here for a complete report on the impact of the “circuit breaker” for all County taxing entities.

BCSC Prepares for H1N1 Virus

Following the direction of the Hendricks County Health Department (HCHD), the BCSC has made preparations for H1N1 vaccinations for its students. The HCHD has not confirmed dates for vaccinations at any location in the county as of yet, but parents will be contacted by phone and information will be available on the HCHD and BCSC web sites as soon as it is confirmed sometime in mid-November.

Though parents have had the opportunity to consent to or refuse their child’s vaccination at school, the HCHD, which is coordinating all H1N1 vaccinations in the County, recommends that parents check with their health care provider first if they prefer not to have their child vaccinated at school. The HCHD also arranged for individuals to receive a free vaccination at the following locations:

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<tr>
<th>Take Care Clinic (in Walgreens) 7975 E Us Hwy 36 Avon  Mon-Fri 8 am-7:30 pm Sun-Sat 9:30 am-5 pm</th>
<th>Minute Clinic (in CVS) 7990 East US Highway 36 Avon  Mon – Fri 8 am to 7pm Sat 9 am to 5:30 pm Sun 10 am to 5 pm</th>
<th>Preferred Home Health Care 5250 E. US 36 Suite 800 Avon  Mon, Wed, Fri 8 am to 4:30 pm</th>
</tr>
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The BCSC is working diligently to keep students healthy and school functioning. If anyone in your family is experiencing flu-like symptoms, the Hendricks County Health Dept. recommends the following:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or upper sleeve if tissues are not available.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Hand sanitizers made with alcohol are also effective.
- Stay home until you are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducers.
- Get plenty of rest and drink plenty of fluids.

For the most recent information from the HCHD click here.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Teachers Never Know Where Their Influence Ends

BCSC 2009 Teacher of the Year, Chris Chadd, was named one of the ten finalists for Indiana State Teacher of the Year by the Indiana Department of Education. Chadd teaches a 4/5 High Ability class at Reagan Elementary.

BHS Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, Beth Oburn, recently received the 2009 Lamplighter Award from the Indiana Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, as an outstanding young professional in the organization. In addition, she received the Award of Merit for contributions to Family and Consumer Sciences programs by developing new programs, helping with legislation, generating better public relations or contributing outstanding service to INDFACS.

Art teacher Jason Catellier, will be recycling excess clay from BHS 3-D art, sculpture and ceramics classes, thanks to a grant from the Hendricks County Solid Waste Management District. Catellier recently received a $4500 grant to purchase a pug mill which recycles clay into a manageable consistency. Catellier said the goal is to create over 1500 lbs. of recycled clay by the end of the year.

Jason Gill, BHS teacher and student government adviser, will receive a $1,000 grant for professional development, thanks to BHS 2008 graduate Kristen Snyder. Snyder, who is active in student government, was recently honored with the “Realizing the Dream” award from the University of Evansville. Her award allowed her to choose a teacher who she believes has made a difference in her life. She selected Gill because of the opportunities he opened up to her through her BHS student council participation.

The Indiana Dept. of Education and the Indiana School Counselor Association recently awarded East Middle School and West Middle School guidance counselors the Gold Star Counseling Award for exhibiting the highest level of counseling professionalism in Indiana.
Brownsburg Schools

News & Events

OCTOBER
20 BHS Fall Concert, 6:15 & 8 p.m.
21 Report cards
22-23 Fall Recess, no school
26 Delaware Trail Fall Musical, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.
26 School Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
26 BHS Orchestra Concert, 6:30 p.m.
27 EMS Orchestra Concert, 6:30 p.m.; EMS Band Concert, 7:30 p.m.
29 White Lick Fall Concert, 4th & 5th grades, 7 p.m.
29 WMS Orchestra Concert, 6:30 p.m.; WMS Band Concert, 7:30 p.m.
29 CLC Community Mission, Rendezvous with a Comet, 6-9 p.m.

NOVEMBER
1 Senior Academy Dedication, 2 p.m.
5-7 EMS Musical, “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat”, 6:30 p.m.
6 Teacher Professional Day; no student attendance
9 School Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
12 First Grade Vision Screening, Cardinal Challenger Learning Center Mystery Night, 6:30-8 p.m.
13 Parent Conference Day; no K-8 student attendance
13-14 BHS Fall Play, “The Diary of Anne Frank”, 7:30 p.m.
16-18 Yankee Candle pick up
17 Brown Fall Concert, grades 2 & 4,
18 AIDS Advisory Meeting, Cardinal, 4 p.m.
19 Vision BCSC Graduation, Eagle, 8-10:30 a.m.
19-20 WMS Musical, “Seussical”, 6:30 p.m.
21 All Region Band Competition, BHS 8 a.m.
22 All Region Band Competition, BHS 2 p.m.
23 Reagan Fall Musical, 6:30 & 7:30 p.m.
School Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
26-27 Thanksgiving Break, no school

Halloween Mission at the CLC
Track down a comet or an alien on October 29, during the “Alien Halloween Community Mission” at the Challenger Learning Center from 6 to 9 p.m.
Call the Brownsburg CLC at 317-852-1008 for reservations for fifth graders through adults. The cost is $20.00 per traveler, and your spacecraft is located at 725C South Green Street in Brownsburg.

EMS Musical
“Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” by Andrew Lloyd Weber and Tim Rice, will be presented in the East Middle School cafeteria November 5, 6 and 7. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the show begins at 6:30 p.m. Tickets must be purchased in advance. They are $12.00 each and can be purchased through the BEMS office. The show involves 285 BEMS choir students.

WMS Musical
“Seussical the Musical” by Lynn Ahrens and Steven Flaherty will be presented in the West Middle School cafeteria November 19 and 20 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $5 for students and adults and can be purchased at the door the nights of performances.

What do you think?
The BCSC is interested in your opinions.
Click on this link and and take a quick survey.

Teachable Moments

What’s Happening in Our Schools?

Brownsburg Schools are always bustling with activity. This is just a sample of the thousands of “teachable moments” that have taken place since the start of school.

BHS New Student Breakfast
New students were treated to donuts and welcomed to BHS. The 124 students were also introduced to various staff who explained services available at their new high school.

Delaware Trail All-Pro Dads’ Club
These dads have breakfast once a month with their sons and daughters. The program offers guest speakers, games and activities to bring dads closer to their children.

Senior Academy VIP Event
Those who were instrumental in developing the concept, creating the facility, and providing support for the program were treated to breakfast, an introduction to various students and student government leaders, as well as a tour of the new facility.

Cardinal & Stuffee
First grade students recently met Stuffee, from Peyton Manning Children’s Hospital. Dr. Linamore Parr explained how Stuffee’s oversized internal organs work in his body.

East Middle School Green Roof Project
The Global Impact Awareness Club installed a Green Roof over a portion of the media center roof at East Middle School.

Heroes Back Home
The Purdue Extension Service “Operation Military Kids” delivered a “Hero Pack” for bravery back home, to an Eagle student whose parents are both members of the military. One parent is currently serving in Afghanistan.