



## ***Bethalto Community Unit School District #8***

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**Dr. Jill Griffin, Superintendent of Schools**

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**Dr. Barrett Deist**

*Business Manager (CSBO)*

Happy Friday EagleNation,

I hope everyone enjoyed the Easter holiday and spring break with their families. There is nothing that recharges my battery more than spending time with those I love and cherish most. It's hard to believe that we only have 4 weeks of school left. The last day of school is on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, which is a half-day for school improvement.

I enjoyed a fantastic evening last night at Lewis & Clark Community College celebrating the top



8% of the class of 2017 at the Silver Medallion awards dinner. It's always encouraging to sit and listen to the college plans and courses of study our students and others in the area plan to pursue during the next leg of their journey. The students we celebrated included: **Ethan Cain, Kennedy Carnes, Brandon Carpenter, Mallory Griggs, Jaxsen Helmkamp, Kaitlyn Kappler, Samantha Mann, Liliana Mueller, Dalton Myers, Dylan Short, Rachel Stilwell, Kylee Thoroughman and Alexandra Troeckler.**

And just when you thought the night couldn't get any better, Brandon Carpenter was named the 2017 Scholastic Athlete of the Year at the Silver Medallion Banquet, which was a significant accomplishment for such an amazing young man. Brandon wrestles and plays baseball for CM while maintaining an exceptionally high GPA. Civic was well represented last night and we are proud of our Silver Medallion Award Recipients! I have

been searching for a picture of the entire group, but LCCC hasn't posted the pictures on their flickr site yet, and as I was in the photo, I didn't get one myself. I do have one to share of our 2017 Athlete of the Year.

***"Achievement for All"***

As I mentioned in the last edition of the supt scoop, the district joined many other school districts in filing a lawsuit against the state of Illinois and the Illinois State Board of Education. The district spent \$1,000 to join the suit, in hopes that much more will be recovered if we are successful. This is also a political move, as districts across the state are aligning themselves to “push back” against the state in an effort to see the governor and state legislators reach across the aisle and pass a budget. You will see additional information coming out as an additional initiative will be gaining momentum as superintendents across the state have joined together to call on members of the Illinois General Assembly and the Governor to do the following:

- Immediately and with bipartisan support end the state budget impasse
- Fix the education formula and invest in students and schools throughout the state, including higher education
- Pay school districts what they are owed this year

You can anticipate seeing more specific information about this in the weeks to come, and may even see things like, “Pass Illinois Budget” on our marquees and shared on social media. I apologize for inundating you with all this information, but I do believe as parents in our community you need to be aware of the issues we are facing and the difficult decisions we will be forced to make if something doesn’t change in Springfield. In a previous email I sent out on March 17th, there was contact information for our legislators, please do not hesitate to reach out on behalf of your child/children and express your concern. To date, we will have received no funding to support our special education students, no funding to transport our students and \$75,000 of the \$180,000 owed to us to support our early childhood education programs.

In closing, our students returned from Spring Break on Monday and began taking the PARCC assessment on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> in grades 3-8. PARCC is the state mandated assessment our students take to demonstrate mastery of the Math and English Language Arts learning standards we teach in each grade level. Each of the testing buildings (Parkside 3<sup>rd</sup> grade only, Meadowbrook and Trimpe) have sent home information specific to the assessment to ensure parents are informed. Prior to Spring Break, our juniors took the SAT, they are no longer required to take the PARCC assessment at the high school level.

As we wind down the 2016-17 school year please remind your kiddos to finish strong, as it’s easy to slip into that “summer mode” with the warmer temperatures. We always appreciate the home/school connection and having the support of our parents. Enjoy your weekend!

Respectfully,

Jill Griffin, Superintendent