



# INSIGHTS

September 2010

Volume II Number 1

*Mrs. Dani Trimble*  
*OABCIG Superintendent*

**Welcome back!** It is exciting to be back in the classrooms as we start the 2010-11 school year. So many wonderful learning experiences and educational moments happen each and every day in every one of our buildings throughout the O-A and BCIG school districts.

### *Facilities*

There are many conversations happening in our communities throughout both districts about the future of buildings. Building closure can be an emotional topic, and predicting the future in rural Iowa is nearly impossible. Changes in population will always be a challenge. A traditional approach is to track births and deaths in our communities, but today our society is highly mobile. Our student enrollment is constantly changing, more and more so with each year that passes.

A few patrons in the O-A district have questioned general upkeep of the Odebolt building, which in their eyes may raise questions

about the future of the building. At the present time, we are choosing to place an emphasis on conversion of the boiler system to geothermal units. The savings with this conversion are a direct savings to our General Fund, while the cost to install comes from funds that cannot be used educationally. Yes, there are other items that need our attention, and we wish to assure you that the O-A board and our administration takes great pride in maintaining the Odebolt building. We will continue to strive for improvement to such things as playground equipment, the rec area, the front entrance, and our other buildings on site. These are the visible items from the outside, but there is so much more happening inside the building. We invite you to stop by any time to see the science addition, our top-notch computer labs, well-kept and remodeled classrooms, the very impressive gymnasium with updated bleachers and a fresh new coat of paint, and a generally well-cared for building. You will undoubtedly notice other things as well, like lockers showing their wear, ceiling tiles slightly discolored, or spots of dry-wall

waiting for finishing touches. But overall, our cleaning and maintenance staff can be commended for the work they have put toward maintaining and improving these facilities. While none of us are in a position to make guarantees for the decades ahead, there are currently no discussions at the board or administrative levels about closure of this facility.

There are, however, conversations in progress about the closure of a building in the BCIG District. I would invite you to review a recent "District Talk" article that addressed many of the concerns raised about the decision that lies ahead for the BCIG School Board. You can find this article at [www.oabcig.org](http://www.oabcig.org) under "District Info, Board of Directors".

### *Whole Grade Sharing & Study of Reorganization*

We are very proud of the first year of WGS between our districts. We are fully aware that things were not perfect, and we will make small adjustments as needed as we begin this second year. In addition, our districts will begin studying reorganization this year through our Joint Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC). We

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do this for two reasons. First, when districts commit to receiving supplemental weighting (known as incentive money), they also commit to this study. And second, it is our responsibility to always be studying the future and nurturing options to stay progressive and viable.

**Staffing**

Both districts experienced the loss of staff members at the end of last year, whether it was from early retirement or staff members moving on to other positions. To fill vacancies, we welcome the following new employees:

- Alicia Nelson..... OA Kindergarten teacher
- Alycia Sporrer..... OA Kindergarten teacher
- Beth Bohnet..... OA 2nd grade teacher
- Hayley Hector..... BCIG 2nd grade teacher
- Kelsie Mosman ..... BCIG 3rd grade teacher
- Renae Remer ..... BCIG 5th/6th grade teacher
- Jonathan Nelson..... BCIG Elementary & Intermediate PE teacher
- Stacey Krayenhagen .... BCIG Intermediate secretary
- Sonya Nielsen ..... OA Elementary & OA-BCIG MS Vocal teacher
- Steve Hummel ..... OA-BCIG Middle School Science teacher
- Kelly Schroeder ..... OA-BCIG High School PE teacher
- Rochelle Maynard ..... OA-BCIG High School Spanish teacher
- Michael Schnoes ..... OA-BCIG HS Industrial Technology teacher
- Trudie Hartwig..... OA-BCIG High School paraeducator
- Faith Johnson ..... OA-BCIG HS Special Education teacher
- Beth Euchner..... BCIG Intermediate School Cook
- Jeff Nollen..... BCIG Elementary & OA-BCIG HS Custodian

**Annual Report to our Community**

Each fall, school districts across Iowa report the achievement of their students to our communities in an Annual Progress Report (APR). The OA & BCIG APR will be posted at [www.oabcig.org](http://www.oabcig.org).

**Professional Development**

Once each month school dismisses early for our staff to participate in on-going professional development. While having students in school is our top priority, studies tell us that devoting time to the continuing development of teachers makes a big difference to our students. Professional Development activities for this year will be organized around five learning team strands. Our staff members have each selected their learning track preference, each based around the Iowa Core Curriculum Characteristics of Effective Instruction in the following areas:

- Assessment
- Student Centered Classrooms
- Rigorous & Relevant Curriculum: 21st Century Skills
- Teaching for Learner Difference - Upper Elementary
- Teaching for Learner Difference - Lower Elementary



**On-Line Access**

We continue to try to save paper resources and expenses involved with mailing items by utilizing our student information system (JMC) to share things electronically with our parents and students. This includes the ability for sharing student progress in scheduled classes (the availability of this information varies by instructor and grade level), attendance, lunch balances and various communication items. The high school has adopted a policy of only printing report cards at the end of grading periods by request as there were so many that weren't picked up (we assume that is due to the fact that people are looking online).

Since we are still two separate districts and each must report to the state, we each maintain a database to take care of the students enrolled in our buildings (students in the Odebolt building are kept in a database at that site while students in either the Battle Creek or Ida Grove buildings are kept in a database maintained in Ida Grove). This means that if you have a student in the elementary in Odebolt and a student in the high school in Ida Grove, you must log into two separate accounts to view your student's information (grades, lunch, etc). This seems to have been a point of confusion for families that have had kids move from one community to attend classes to another. Another possible thing to check if you are having problems accessing is to make sure you are using the current link off of the district home page (<http://oabcig.org>) as these do change with each new school year.

If you have problems accessing or questions, please let us know (Traci Allen in the Odebolt build-

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### Senior Visits - Success!

Seniors will meet individually with Mrs. Schroeder, OA-BCIG High School Counselor starting August 30, to discuss many important items to make their senior year go smoothly-

- senior classes and schedule
- graduation credits
- future plans
- college visits, admissions
- job shadow ideas
- scholarships, etc.

Parents are encouraged to contact the High School Guidance Office with any questions they may have concerning their child's senior year.

### PSAT Tests

Juniors who signed up to take the PSAT test will be taking it on October 13th

Each student is responsible for a \$13 test fee by October 8th. The PSAT test -

- measures reading, math, and writing skills needed for college, and for success in most jobs and careers in today's world.

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ing - tallen@oabcig.org - 712-668-2827 or Doug Wheeler - dwheeler@oabcig.org - 712-364-3371 in Battle Creek or Ida Grove buildings) so we can get you connected.

High school students can request their own access (so they can't see their siblings information should they have any) and parents or legal care providers can obtain access at any time by contacting any school office.

•gives students a chance to see how their skill compared with those of other students who will apply for college.

•is the first step, for juniors, in entering the National Merit Scholarship Corporation competitions for scholarships and recognition.

- provides practice for possible SAT exams and similar ACT.

All interested juniors were given materials to look at and to take home to share with their parents.

### PLAN Test

The PLAN test is offered to sophomores to help them prepare for the ACT test. The test -

- helps focus test preparation to improve ACT score
- provides an estimated ACT composite
- provides educational and career option information

The PLAN test will be administered to interested sophomores on November 4, 2010. The test will cost \$9.50

For more information on the PLAN test please visit: <http://www.actstudent.org/plan/>

### Make This Year Your Best!

I had the opportunity to visit with all juniors in American History, sophomores in Comp/Lit 2 and freshman Comp/Lit 1 to give

them encouragement to make this year one of their best years of high school. Each student was given a handout listing many important things to make their year a successful year. What will your high school package look like when you graduate? Parents ask your student about how they are filling their package.

### ACT Testing Dates and Deadlines

Test Dates	Regular Deadline
Oct. 23, 2010	Sept. 17 2010
Dec. 11, 2010	Nov. 5, 2010
Feb. 12, 2011	Jan. 7, 2011
Apr. 9, 2011	Mar. 4, 2011
June 11, 2011	May 6, 2011

ACT CODE - 162-129

All ACT materials are found in the High School Guidance Office. Registration is encouraged online -[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

### Important Dates

October 13-MVAO College Fair (Juniors will attend the fair at Mapleton at 1:00)

October 13 -PSAT for interested juniors

October 18, 21 -Parent Teacher conferences

### Senior Scholarships

Monthly scholarship lists for seniors can be found on the OA-BCIG website- [www.oabcig.org](http://www.oabcig.org)

### On-Line Resources

Our students continue to have the ability to benefit from up-to-date information that is accessible from both at school and at home.

These include items that the AEA makes available as well as a new resource for the Battle Creek-Ida Grove Elementary students. The AEA offerings include: AccuWeather, AP Images, Atomic Learning, DE Streaming, EBSCO, iClipart for Schools, Learn 360, SIRS Researcher, World Book Web, Rosen's Teen



Health & Wellness, Sondzabound, & Wilbor ([http://www.nwaea.k12.ia.us/en/programs\\_and\\_services/media\\_and\\_technology/northwest\\_aea\\_online\\_resources/](http://www.nwaea.k12.ia.us/en/programs_and_services/media_and_technology/northwest_aea_online_resources/)). The BCIG elementary can also access Grolier Online by pulling up <http://go.grolier.com>

We aren't allowed to publish the passwords, but the information should come home in a note or you can contact the media center in any building for the information.

# Activity Calendar for September 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 •School Pictures - BCIG	2 •School Pictures - OA •JVR FB @ Mapleton 5:30	3 •FB vs Alta-Aurelia 7:00	4 •VB @ Ridge View Classic (Schaller) 9:00
5	6 Labor Day - No Classes	7 •VB vs Storm Lake 6:00 •JV FB @ Manning 6:00	8 •Athletic Boosters Meet 6:00	9 •VB @ Lawton 6:00	10 •FB @ Missouri Valley 7:00	11 •NW IA Pre All State Rehersal •VB @ West Monona Invite 9:00 •CC @ Ridge View Invite
						
12	13 •MS VB 7th @ Sac City, 8th @ Odebolt •JV FB @ Mondamin 6:00 • School Board Meeting 6:30	14 •Jr. Magazine Sales Start •MS FB @ Manning 4:00 •MS VB 7th @ Schaller, 8th @ Odebolt •VB vs MVAO 6:00	15 1:00 Dismissal - Professional Development	16 •CAC Meeting	17 •FB vs Cherokee 7:00	18 •VB OABCIG Invite 9:00 •Fr VB @ Denison Tourney 9:00 •CC @ Kuemper Invite 9:00
19 IPRA PPK Competition	20 •JV FB vs Westwood 6:00	21 •MS FB vs Ridge View 4:00 •MS VB 8th vs Storm Lake 4:00 •VB vs Storm Lake St. Mary's 6:00	22 •OA 4th Grade to Country School	23 •JVR FB vs East Sac County 4:00 •MS VB 7th vs Ar-We-Va 4:00 •CC @ MVAO Invite 4:30	24 •OA 5th Conservation Field Day •FB @ Lake City (South Central Calhoun County) 7:00	25 •VB Western Valley Conference Tourney (Ida Grove) 9:00
						
26	27 •Jr Magazine Sales End •MS VB 7th vs AOMV, 8th @ Anthon 4:00 •VB WVC Tourney Finals @ Mapleton 6:00 •JV FB vs East Sac County 6:00	28 •MS FB @ Anthon (AOMV) 4:00 •MS VB 7th vs Ridge View, 8th @ Galva 4:00 •CC at Hull 4:30 •OA Title I Parent Meeting 7:00	29 •Music Frozen Food Sales Begin	30 •Homecoming Festivities •JVR FB vs. Alta-Aurelia 4:15		

# Breakfast & Lunch Menus for September 2010

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				
<p>6 Labor Day - No School</p>	<p>7 OA B: Donut OA L: Chicken Nuggets, Green Beans, Pudding Cup, Mandarin Oranges, SMB BCIG B: Cereal Bar &amp; Yogurt BCIG L: Hot Dog/Bun, Potato wedges, Carrots, Mixed Melon &amp; PB Sandwich</p>	<p>8 OA B: Cinnamon Roll OA L: Pizza, Lettuce Salad, Baby Carrots, Apricots or Oranges BCIG B: Cheese Omelet &amp; Toast BCIG L: Chef Salad OR Ravioli, Corn, Pears &amp; Butter Sandwich</p>	<p>9 OA B: Poptarts OA L: Taco Soft Shells, Refired Beans, Rice, Pineapple, Churro BCIG B: Cereal &amp; Donut BCIG L: Fiestata &amp; Assorted Salads</p>	<p>3 OA B: Egg &amp; Toast OA L: Hot Dog/Bun, Baked Beans, Fresh Veggies, Mixed Fruit BCIG B: Egg Patty, Sausage &amp; Toast BCIG L: BBQ Pork Rib/Bun, French Fries, Peas, Pineapple, PB Sandwich</p>
<p>13 OA B: Longjohn OA L: Chicken Alfredo, Cooked Carrots, Rosy Applesauce, Rice Krispy Bar, SMB BCIG B: Biscuit &amp; Sausage &amp; Gravy BCIG L: Shrimp Poppers, Mozzarella Sticks, Peas, Mandarin Oranges &amp; PB Sandwich</p>	<p>14 OA B: Yogurt &amp; Cereal OA L: Scalloped Potatoes &amp; Ham, Peas, Pineapple, PB on SMB BCIG B: Cereal &amp; Toast BCIG L: Tavern/Bun, Hash Browns, Carrots, Applesauce &amp; Butterscotch Brownie</p>	<p>15 OA B: Cinnamon Roll OA L: Corndog, Diced Potatoes, Peaches, SMB BCIG B: Cheese Omelet &amp; Toast BCIG L: Chef Salad &amp; Turkey Sandwich, Mixed Fruit</p>	<p>16 OA B: Pancakes OA L: Super Nachos, Lettuce Salad, Rice, Grapes, PB on SMB BCIG B: Cereal &amp; Donut BCIG L: Pizza &amp; Assorted Salads</p>	<p>17 OA B: Breakfast Pizza OA L: Fish Patty/Bun, Coleslaw, Baby Carrots, Fresh Fruit BCIG B: Egg Patty, Bacon &amp; Toast BCIG L: Scalloped Potatoes &amp; Ham, Corn, Pears, &amp; Butter Sandwich</p>
<p>20 OA B: Donut OA L: Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes &amp; Gravy, Corn, Mixed Fruit BCIG B: Waffle &amp; Sausage BCIG L: Chicken Drumsticks, Tator tots, Green Beans, Apricots, PB Sandwich</p>	<p>21 OA B: Bagel/Cream Cheese OA L: Spaghetti, Meat Sauce, Lettuce Salad, Apple, Cottage Cheese, Garlic Toast BCIG B: Cereal &amp; Toast BCIG L: BBQ Shredded Porlk/Bun, Potato Salsd, Baked Beans, Mixed Melon, &amp; PB Sandwich</p>	<p>22 OA B: Breakfast Pizza OA L: Mr. Rib/Bun, Peas, Banana BCIG B: Cheese Omelet &amp; Toast BCIG L: Chef Salad OR Chicken Tetrizzini, Carrots, Pineapple &amp; Butter Sandwich</p>	<p>23 OA B: French Toast OA L: Chicken Patty/Bun, Green Beans, Pineapple, Fresh Broccoli BCIG B: Cereal &amp; Donut BCIG L: Pizzattas &amp; Assorted Salads</p>	<p>24 OA B: Egg &amp; Toast OA L: Burritos, Tomato/Salsa, Pears, SMB BCIG B: Egg Patty, Sausage &amp; Toast BCIG L: Lasagna, Peas, Peaches, &amp; Garlic Bread</p>
<p>27 OA B: Longjohn OA L: Hamburger/Bun, Tomatoes, Onion, French Fries, Assorted Fruit BCIG B: Breakfast Pizza BCIG L: Hamburger/Bun, Smiley Fries, Corn, Applesauce, &amp; PB Sandwich</p>	<p>28 OA B: Breakfast Burrito OA L: Mac &amp; Cheese, Green Beans, Rosy Applesauce, PB on SMB BCIG B: Cereal &amp; Toast BCIG : Chicken Tacos w/ fixings, Mixed Fruit, Chocolate Chip Cookie, PB Sandwich</p>	<p>29 OA B: Cinnamon Roll OA L: Pizzatas, Lettuce Sslad, Cukes, Radishes, Oranges, Birthday Cake BCIG B: Cheese Omelet &amp; Toast BCIG L: Chef Salad OR Tator Tot Casserole, Green Beans, Pears, &amp; Butter Sandwich</p>	<p>30 OA B: English Muffin OA L: Breaded Pork Patty/Bun, Fresh Veggies, Jello, Tropical Fruit Mix BCIG B: Cereal &amp; Donut BCIG L: Pizza &amp; Assorted Salads</p>	

*Milk is served with each meal.*

*OABCIG Community School Districts are equal opportunity providers. All menus are subject to change.*

*Mr. Alan Henderson*  
*BCIG PK-6 Principal*

We have had a great start to our school year and we are all looking forward to having a successful 2010-2011 school year. Our doors are always open and hope there will be many visits from parents this year. Parent support and involvement is key in helping with the education of each of our children. If any of you are interested in volunteering and helping out in a classroom please give us a call. Parents of Pre-school, Alternate Kindergarten and Kindergarten students are reminded to please turn in physical forms and immunization cards. All students entering school need to be updated with their vaccinations.

*Mrs. Julie Staley*  
*BCIG PK-6 Guidance*

At BCIG Elementary, we are going to emphasize one character trait each month. September the trait is respect. Respect means treating others the way we want to be treated. It is important to show respect to everyone, including other students, teachers, parents, and other adults. It is also important to respect property, whether it is our own or belongs to someone else.

**For Up-To-Date Info, Please Visit: <http://oabcig.org>**

These may be brought to the elementary anytime. I would like to thank the custodians for all of their work on getting our school prepared for this year. Without them we would not have the great facilities that we have. They do a tremendous job and are appreciated by all.

We have a couple of changes in our staff this year. We would like to welcome Haley Hector to our Second Grade Team. Kelsie Mosman will be joining our Third Grade Team. Renae Remer is going to be working with fifth grade students in Battle Creek. She will also be doing some Title I in the building as well.

They all are ready to work with your students to help them have the best education they can get. We would like to welcome them to our buildings and we are excited to have them here.

At BCIG intermediate, we have started Falcon Time advisory groups. Each student is one of 10 to 12 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students belonging to a Falcon Time group that meets first thing in the morning. A teacher

leads each group and will stay with that group all year. The goal is to help students develop positive relationships with children of various ages and with their Falcon teacher. Other goals include help with organization, developing social skills, esteem building, and fun.

Some other changes that you won't see, is that we have received some Microsoft money, which has allowed us to buy laptops for teachers this year. This will help them in getting lessons ready to use with our new Activboards in our classrooms. We are looking forward to watch how this impacts our use of the boards in the rooms.

We are also working on a Peaceful Bus Ride for the shuttle between Ida Grove and Battle Creek. We are starting out with some chaperones, and are working toward making that ride a peaceful and respectful place to be. This will hopefully make it a safer place for all.

The beginning of the school year is such an exciting time and the teachers have been working hard to prepare for it. We look forward to all of the students returning. If you ever have questions throughout the year just give me a call. With your support this is going to be a great year and we invite you to come and see all of the great things that are happening in our schools where...

*"The best begin!"*

