



Lea Brunssen, Kelsey Sebetka & Adrianna Whitley

Middle School Bobcat Blurb

Benton Middle School

Student Council Info

Benton Community is blessed with great students and two used their idea to pull together resources to get our student council and other BC students and staff to donate items to two different local community agencies. Together we donated over 40 bags and boxes of toys, books and clothes. A HUGE THANKS for your consideration and coordination MS staff and students!

A Friendly Bobcat Welcome

Hello my name is Mr. Wade Riley and this is my first year here at Benton Community School District. I would just like to take some time to tell about my experiences thus far here at Benton. I was offered the Middle School History position in April of last year and within one week of my acceptance; I was already receiving e-mails from teachers. The staff here at Benton was very quick at welcoming me to the district. They also expressed how excited they were to meet me and my wife (Abby). (Those of you who don't know me, I'm originally from Northwest Iowa and my wife and I took the leap of moving away from our families to the Cedar Rapids area.)

My time here at Benton has been nothing short of feeling as though we never left our family back in Northwest Iowa and that we have created our own little family

here. The students here have great respect for their teachers and always have an open mind for learning and that makes for a great classroom atmosphere. My wife and I have the upmost respect for Benton Community for accepting us into the Bobcat family.

The staff/administration at Benton is top-notch in accepting new teachers into their building and how they go about their business on a daily basis. Abby and I are glad to be a part of the Bobcat family and we're also pleased to announce that we will be having our first little Bobcat in late April.

We have been doing some fun and exciting things in my 7th and 8th grade History classes this year. In 7th grade Geography, we have been learning a lot of information on North and South America. We have been learning about the people that live there, their cultures, and where they are located on a map. We have been using technology to our advantage by using websites to help us remember locations of countries within North and South America.

In 8th grade U.S. History, we have been learning the importance of the beginning of the United States of America. We have learned a great deal of information on the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and will soon be transitioning into the Civil War.

We also try to incorporate a lot of technology into our daily lessons through particular websites and YouTube video clips. The first half of the year has been great, and the second half will only be better! GO BOBCATS!!



Have you noticed KCRG's new HD logo? Drew Traut, a BC 8th grader did and immediately went to work constructing his very own 3D version using 300 legos.

KCRG even highlighted Drew's creation on their evening news. We're very proud of Drew and his ability to create such a wonderful masterpiece and thank him for being willing to share it with us for this newsletter.

~Jo Prusha

Benton MS/HS Conferences

Conferences for Term 3 will be held on 2/22/12 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

We know as a school system having PowerSchool as an option to look up your child's grades on-line has been a benefit to all of us. If you need your log-in information, please contact Melisa @ 319-228-8701 ext. 356.

However, we still would love to see you and your child for conferences to discuss other topics that are not grade related, such as: is your child asking questions, does your child work well with others, does your child use class time wisely, etc.

7th grade conferences will once again be student-led in the media center. 7th grade staff members are available during that time to have a private conversation, if you choose. 8th grade conferences will be in each teachers classroom, except for Mr. Riley, Mrs. Olen, Mr. Kenny & Mr. Kulbartz, as they teach 7th & 8th grade sections and will be in the media center.

Upcoming Dates

Feb. 1, 2012	1:00 Dismiss (K-12 PD)
Feb. 10, 2012	No School (K-12 PD)
Feb. 20, 2012	School now in Session
Feb. 22, 2012	1:00 Dismiss (K-12 PD)/7-12 Conferences 4-8pm
Feb. 28, 2012	6:30 p.m. 7/8 Band/Vocal Concert
March 7, 2012	1:00 Dismiss (K-12 PD)
March 16, 2012	1:00 Dismiss (K-12 PD)
March 22, 2012	1:00 Dismiss (End of Term 3 for MS/HS)

Snow Make-up

1. School will be in regular session on Monday, February 20th (make-up for 1-20-12)
2. School will be in session on Thursday, April 5th (make-up for 1-23-12). Classes will be dismissed at 1:00 p.m. on this day for PK-12 professional development.
3. Wednesday, April 4th will be a regular school day - no early out.
4. The 7-12 end of third term will be on Wednesday, March 21st. There is already a scheduled early out on this date. The 3rd term will be 46 days based on this adjustment. The 4th term will begin on Thursday, March 22nd for grades 7-12.
5. K-6 will continue to end their 3rd term on Friday, March 16th to accommodate P/T conferences scheduled for March 21 and March 29. The 7-12 staff will have PD on Friday, March 16th. The District will still dismiss school at 1:00 p.m. on March 16th.

The next scheduled make-up day will be Friday, May 25th.

Voicelink Number:

830-2164

This is a toll-free number that you can call to get updated information on what is happening in school. When accessing the Benton Voicelink from either a cell phone or long distance, please know that the prefix is 515 and the number is 515-830-2164.

Iowa School Alerts

is a great way to get information about school related activities via your email and/or cell phone. To sign up go to: <https://schoolalerts.iowa.gov/>

