



UP FRONT

VOLUME 39, NUMBER 4

January 13, 2012

Brandon, South Dakota 57005

Parent Teacher Conferences

Monday, February 13, 2011

High School/Elementary Conferences

Tuesday, February 14, 2011

Middle School Conferences

**TIMES: 1:30-5:30 PM
6:30-9:30 PM**

All schools will have early dismissal on those days. We urge that all students be represented by one or both parents.

Brandon Elementary, Robert Bennis Elementary, Fred Assam Elementary and Valley Springs Elementary Conferences are held in the students' classroom.

Middle School Conferences are held in both the East and West gyms.

Brandon Valley High School Conferences are held in the HS Commons.

KINDERGARTEN SCREENING

The Brandon Valley School District will be conducting their kindergarten screening during the week of March 5-8, 2012. Anyone in the district who has a child who will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2012 is eligible to register. Parents are asked to call the elementary school within their boundary area.

Please let your friends and neighbors know who may not currently have a child enrolled in the BV School District! Call today!

Fred Assam Elementary 582-1500
Robert Bennis Elementary 582-8010
Brandon Elementary 582-6315
Valley Springs Elementary 757-6285



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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT...



Superintendent David Pappone

The Brandon Valley School District will join districts across the state to thank school board members for their commitment to South Dakota public education during School Board Recognition Week January 9-13, 2012.

The governor designated this time to salute South Dakota's school board members for their leadership in setting direction for public schools and working to improve student achievement.

We have an outstanding group of men and women serving on our Board. They dedicate many hours each month to their Board activities as they represent the interface between the public and the district. They work hard to fulfill the core operating principle of the district: "Our business is the creation of learning environments that result in success."



"Our business is the creation of learning environments that result in success."

The board members who serve on the Brandon Valley School Board are responsible for setting the vision for the district. They work to provide a quality education for over 3,300 K-12 students.

The school board also hires quality educators, sets district goals, adopts policies and evaluates progress while keeping the interests of our students first.

As elected school leaders, board members make our schools a place where all children can learn. They play an important role in our representative government that guarantees local control of schools.

During School Board Recognition Week, the Brandon Valley School District invites students, staff and community members to take part in honoring its school board members.

Please take time to say "thank you" to Jean Bender, Jay Rasmussen, Renee Ullom, Gregg Ode, and Sue Hegland for their service.



LEXIS SHERRON DEFENDS BVMS SPELLING BEE TITLE

By Jill Meier
Challenger editor

There's a trend going on at Brandon Valley Middle School, as recent year school spelling and geography bee competitions have churned out repeat winners.

For three consecutive years, now freshman Robert Haggar walked away with a trio of BVMS Geography Bee titles. And for the second consecutive year, Lexis Sherron spelled her way to victory of the 2012 BVMS Spelling Bee. Sherron pulled off the

feat as a sixth grader in the inaugural year of the local school event, and said she was determined to do it again. "I wanted to win," the seventh grader admits, "but I didn't want people to think mean things of me."

BVMS Principal Dan Pansch said any one of this year's 10 finalists could've won. "You noticed how close she came to not repeating," Pansch said. "Will she do it three times? I don't know, but it was pretty clear it took some work."

Unlike last year, Sherron, a straight A student, said she didn't put in as much pre-spelling bee practice time as she did the previous year, but said a couple of items she now has aided in her repeat victory. "I got a Kindle Fire for Christmas that has a built-in dictionary and I won a dictionary at last year's spelling bee," she said.

Sherron now has five weeks to prepare for the regional level of the Scripps Spelling Bee competition, which she took first place at in 2011. That competition is scheduled for Feb. 11 in Sioux Falls. If she is victorious at the regional level, Sherron will advance to the state spelling bee, where she also had some success, finishing second to West River's Ryder Heitz. That competition will be held on the University of South Dakota campus in Vermillion.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The Brandon Valley School District and First National Bank have once again joined in partnership to recognize a Brandon Valley "Teacher of the Year" for the 2011-2012 school year.

Parents, students and teachers are encouraged to nominate a Brandon Valley teacher to receive this award. Nomination forms may be obtained from any district principal's office or the office of the superintendent. Forms need to be submitted with two (2) letters of recommendation attached no later than Friday, April 13, 2012.

Those teachers nominated will be sent an application form to be completed and returned to the Superintendent's Office for review by a selection committee consisting of representatives from school, business and parents. This committee will have the difficult decision of selecting one winner from the top three finalists. All candidates and finalists will be recognized at the Brandon Valley Retirement and Recognition Banquet on Tuesday, May 1, 2012.

Do you know an exceptional teacher in the Brandon Valley School District who you would like to see recognized? If so, please take a few moments to nominate him/her. It is an honor to be nominated and an even greater honor to represent the Brandon Valley teaching staff in this award.



Back L-R: Tammy Bailey, Jill Austin, Jennifer Van Dyke, Amber Ernste, Dan Woodlee, & Sandra Westcott
Front L-R: Rose Mary Christenson, Ty Tietjen, & Leah Lockner



Ty Tietjen

2011 Teacher of the Year

TEACHER OF THE YEAR/RECOGNITION BANQUET

Brandon Valley High School -- Commons Area

6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 1, 2012

Listed below are the names of staff and years of service to the Brandon Valley School District. Congratulations to all! Please mark your calendar for the above date and plan to attend to honor everyone listed. The Teacher of the Year candidates and retirees(to be announced at a later date) will also be honored. Tickets may be purchased at any building office for \$8.50 each (beginning in March).

10 Years

Gene Bennett
Jason Bisbee
Melissa Garrow
Randy Gibbons
Lana Main
Derek Outland
Anne Peters
Melanie Sittig
Sara Stone
Bethany Waysman
Terri Whipkey
Daniel Woodlee

15 Years

Carol Cook
Sheila Fabian

15 Years (cont)

Alice Jacobson
Valerie Sayed
Beth Schaffer
Jennifer Strand
Dr. Gregg Talcott

20 Years

Nancy Brown
Sandy Cummings
Karen Kluin
Joan Krueger
Kim Kueter
Sheri McNamara

25 Years

Joanne Bennis
Patrick Donelan
Randy Marso
Bob McNamara
Becky Mohr
Cathy Olson
Connie Van Den Oever

30 Years

Wayne Hansen

35 Years

Curt Blackburn
Vickie Kolb

SIBLINGS SQUARE OFF IN BVMS GEOGRAPHY BEE

By Jill Meier
Challenger Editor

Emmett Simmons gained bragging rights over his elder sister, Delaney, last week.

The Brandon Valley Middle School seventh grader was the winner of the school's 2012 Geography Bee title, outlasting his sister and eight others. He will now take a written test to determine if he'll move on to the state competition.

The Simmons brother and sister weren't the only siblings duo in the competition. Sisters Kaily and KJ Davis were among the ten who competed for the local Geography Bee title. Kaily, an eighth grader, and KJ, a sixth grader, were eliminated after five and seven rounds, respectively.

To his knowledge Pansch said this is the first time that two pair of siblings have qualified for the local geography bee.

James House, Jacob Meyer, Lincy Rodriguez, Ryan Backer and Dylan Thie were the other six competitors competing for the 2012 BVMS Geography Bee title.



FRED ASSAM ELEMENTARY CHRISTMAS DONATION

Members of the Fred Assam Elementary Student Council collected hundreds of pounds of pet food and supplies donated from their classmates over the last few weeks.

Student Council members rode along as the items were delivered to the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society.

The Humane Society staff was happy to receive the Christmas donation because they were running low on everything.



Early Childhood Developmental Screening

Brandon Valley School District

Thursday, January 26, 2012

8:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

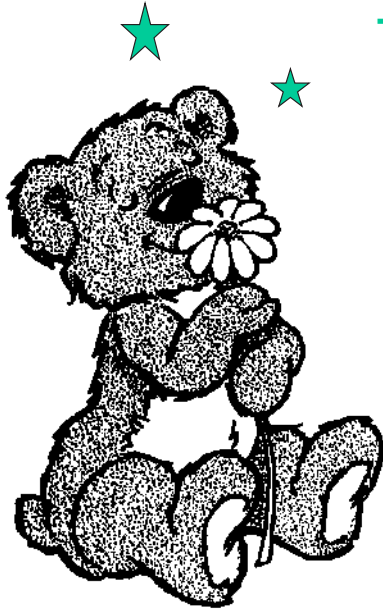
Brandon Elementary School

501 Holly Blvd.; Brandon, SD

Screening is free for all children from birth to age four (4) who live in the Brandon Valley School District. This is NOT for children eligible to start kindergarten in the fall.

Please call Brandon Valley Special Services at

582-3446 to schedule an appointment.



BRANDON VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR

2011-2012

Mon, Jan 16

Martin Luther King-(No School)

In-service/Workshop

Mon, Feb 13

Conference-Elementary/HS

Tue, Feb 14

Conference-MS

Fri, Feb 17

No School

Mon, Feb 20

President's Day (No School)

Thu, Mar 8

End of Third Quarter

Fri, Mar 9

Snow Days-(No School if unused)

Fri & Mon, Apr 6 & 9

Spring Break (No School)

April 27 & Apr 30

Snow Days-(No School if unused)

Wed, May 16

Last Day of School

Thu, May 17

In-service/Workshop

Sun, May 20

Graduation

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

2011 - 2012 Calendar of Events

January

- 10 – Middle School Play @ 7:00pm
- 19 – Financial Aid Info Night @ 6:30pm
- 24, 25, 26 – Region One Act Play Contests @ 9:00am
- 30 – One Act Play Jamboree @ 6:15pm
- 31 – “Seussical” Audition Information Meeting @ 3:30pm
- 31 – BVHS One Act Public Performance @ 7:00pm

February

- 6 – 8 – “Seussical: The Musical” Auditions @ 3:30pm
- 9 – BVHS Jazz Band Concert @ 7:00pm
- 24 – BVHS Chorus Variety Show @ 7:00pm

March

- 5 – Fred Assam & Valley Springs Elem. 1st Grade Concert @ 6:30pm
BVHS Symphonic Band Concert @ 7:30pm
- 6 – Robt. Bennis Elem. 1st Grade Concert @ 7:00p
- 9 – SL Libraries’ Puppet Show @ 10:15am
- 12 – SV Energy Region Meeting @ 6:00pm
- 13 – BVHS Red/Black Bands’ Concert @ 7:00pm
- 15 – Brandon Elem. 1st Grade Concert @ 7:00pm
- 29, 30, 31 – Brandon Valley presents: “Seussical: The Musical” @ 7:00pm

April

- 1 – Brandon Valley presents: “Seussical: The Musical” @ 1:00pm
- 4 – Region II Large Group Instrumental Contest
- 14 – Band Turkey Supper @ 5:00pm
- 21 – Alliance Communications’ Annual Meeting @ 1:00pm
- 16 – National Honor Society Induction @ 7:00pm
- 23 – Fred Assam & Valley Springs Elem. 5th Grade Concert @ 7:00pm
- 26 – Robt. Bennis Elem. 5th Grade Concert @ 7:00pm

May

- 1 – BVHS Bands’ (Symphonic, Red, Black) Concert @ 7:30pm
- 3 – 6th Grade Band & Chorus Concert @ 7:45pm
- 4 – Brandon Elem. 5th Grade Concert @ 7:00pm
- 7 – 7th & 8th Grade Chorus Concert @ 7:00pm
- 8 – BV Middle & High School Orchestra Concert @ 7:00pm
- 10 – BVHS Chorus Concert @ 7:00pm
- 11 – 7th & 8th Grade Band Concert @ 7:00pm
- 14 – Elementary Band & Orchestra Concert @ 7:00pm
- 20 – BVHS Commencement @ 2:00pm (BVHS Activities’ Center)

June

- 9 – Allison’s Dance Academy Recital @ 6:30pm

Parent Teacher Conference Schedule

Between Building & Part-Time Teachers

Elementary & High School conferences are Monday, Feb. 13, 2012 from
1:30-5:30 and 6:30-9:00

Middle School conferences are Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2012
from 1:30-5:30 and 6:30-9:00

Name	Position	Feb. 13	Feb. 14
Berg, Shelly	MS-HS- Orchestra	HS 1:30-5:30	MS 6:30-9:00
Teresa Brandsrud	BE-MS Speech	BE 1:30-9:00	
DeNomme, Amy	District Librarian	FAE 1:30-5:30 RBE 6:30-9:00	
Fode, Jeff	RBE-MS Music	RBE 1:30-7:00	MS 7:00-9:00
Fritz, Marie	District	BE 1:30-9:00	
Keenan, Jeri	VSE-MS Speech	VSE 1:30-9:00	
Gibbons, Randy	FAE-RBE Art	RBE 1:30-5:30 FAE 6:30-9:00	
Gordon, Paula	FAE-VSE PE	VSE 1:30-5:30 FAE 6:30-9:00	
Gullickson, Terry	MS-HS Vocal	HS 6:30-9:00	MS 6:30-9:00
Hanson, Virginia	VSE-FAE Music	VSE 1:30-5:30 FAE 6:30-9:00	
Hubers, Del	BE/RBE/FAE Band	RBE 3:30-5:30 FAE 6:30-9:00 BE 1:30-3:30	
Kessler, Kevin	VSE-HS Band	HS 1:30-5:30 VSE 6:30-9:00	
Kluin, Karen	FAE-RBE- Reading	RBE 1:30-5:30 FAE 6:30-9:00	
Waterbury, Brenda	District Gifted Ed.	RBE 6:30-9:00	MS 1:30-5:30
Lee, Mary	BE - VSE	VSE 1:30-5:30 BE 6:30-9:00	
Megard, Randy	District Adpt PE/PE Tchr.	BE 1:30-9:00	
Miller, Jesse	MS-HS Band	HS 6:30-9:00	MS 1:30-5:30
Mork, Dianne	District PT	FAE 1:30-3:45	
Mutschelknaus, Amy/District OT		BE 1:30-5:30; RBE 6:30 - 9:00	
Beilke, Jessica	District ESL	FAE 1:30-9:00	
Nelson, Patti	RBE-FAE-BE-VSE Orchestra	FAE 1:30-5:30 VSE 6:30-9:00	
Palmer, Tanya	BE-VSE Reading	VSE 1:30-5:30 BE 6:30-9:00	
Ralston, Annlee	District OT	FAE 1:30 - 3:45	
Reid, Julie	District Computer	RBE 7:00-9:00 FAE 1:30-6:45	
Rus, Elizabeth	FAE-VSE Guidance	FAE 1:30-5:30 VSE 6:30-9:00	
Sewell, Marta	MS-HS Art	HS 6:30-9:00	MS 1:30-5:30
Thompson, Lorelei	District PT	BE 1:30-9:00	

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

www.brandonvalleyschools.com

Superintendent	582-2049
Business Manager	582-2058
Operations Manager	582-2058
Business Office Fax Number	582-7456
High School Principal	582-3211
Athletic Director	582-2886
Curriculum Director	582-3211
Performing Arts Center/Community Ed.....	582-8235
High School Fax Number	582-2652
Middle School Principal	582-3214
Fred Assam Elementary Principal.....	582-1500
Brandon Elementary Principal	582-6315
Robert Bennis Elementary Principal.....	582-8010
Valley Springs Elementary Principal.....	757-6285
Director of Special Services	582-3446
District Food Service Director	582-3926
District Transportation Department	582-3514
District Transportation Fax Number	582-2827

We urge that all students be represented by one or both parents at conferences. This is the parents' opportunity to visit their children's teachers.

EDUCATION.....A FAMILY AFFAIR

UPFRONT

The Brandon Valley UPFRONT depicts and discusses programs that are in progress in the Brandon Valley Schools and are of interest to all members of the community. Additional copies are available upon request. Community suggestions and contributions to its content are invited. Email: Sharon.Madsen@k12.sd.us with suggestions.

In case of inclement weather, listen to local radio stations and/or local television stations for school closings.

School Reach Emergency Messaging System will also be utilized. Please remember to answer the call and if this isn't possible you then need to check your voice messages.

Brandon Valley School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities.