



# Spartan Quarterly

**Dates to Remember:**

- Oct. 19, 2006— Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 2, 2006— Parent Teacher Conferences
- Nov. 3, 2006— Parent Teacher Conferences, No School
- Nov. 16, 2006— Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 23, 2006— No Classes
- Nov. 24, 2006— No Classes
- Nov. 27, 2006— No classes (Waiver Day)
- Dec. 21, 2006— Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 22, 2006— No Classes, Winter Break Begins
- Jan. 2, 2006— Classes Resume

## From the Superintendent

Congratulations to a very smooth start of school. The total number of students enrolled this year is down slightly from last year. The district will receive less money this year and we are spending slightly more than we are bringing in. This means that we will have to dip into our carryover to offset district expenses.

As of October 23rd, we will have a new treasurer. Aaron Schirm was hired on October 3, 2006 to replace Richard Koker. Mr. Schirm is a graduate of Ohio University in Business Administration. He is anticipating finishing up his Masters in Business Administration in January. Aaron is coming to Alexander from the Teays Valley School District where he was an Assistant Treasurer.

Premium Holiday: During the months of November & December NO insurance premium will be deducted from your check. Premiums will be deducted again in January.

### District Receives an Effective Rating



Each year, our students in grades 3-8 take the Ohio Achievement Tests and students in 10th & 11th grades take the Ohio Graduation Test. Based on our results of the assessment taken in March 2006, Alexander Local Schools moved from Continuous Improvement to Effective. This is due to the fact that everyone (parents, teachers, support staff, administration, students, etc.) worked together to help our students. Congratulations to everyone, especially our students for their hard work.

### ALS Food Service: 2006 Stellar Award Winner

• Congratulations to Alexander Local Schools Food Service Department. The Stellar Award was given by the Ohio Department of Education recognizing that our school food service program provides students with healthy choices in a pleasant eating environment. We were selected for this award based on the type of meal service provided; the quality of meals served; Al la carte & vending options; continuing education & training for food service staff; effort made to providing a pleasant eating environment; and nutrition education that targets students, staff, parents & community.



# Reading First

Good news from your elementary school Reading First Office! Last year we put into motion many changes in the way we teach reading at the elementary level in order to ensure that the (5) core components are being addressed: Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Vocabulary, Fluency, and Comprehension. We are very confident that our efforts are making an impact on our students' learning.

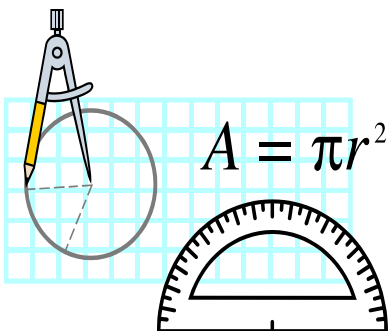
- Screening has been completed for every child in grades K – 3. The elementary teachers are using this information to plan instruction.
- *Intervention / enrichment* is beginning for **all** students in grades 1 – 3. This involves an extra half hour daily of reading instruction. The students may be rotating to different teachers and classrooms during this half-hour block.
- Benchmark testing happens in November, February, and April. At these times each student is assessed to see how well he/she is progressing toward meeting grade level goals. This information is then used to help plan intervention and see how much progression each student has made.
- “How to Help Your Child with Reading” sessions will be available during parent/teacher conferences this November. More information will be forthcoming.

## AHS WoodLinks Nationally Ranked!

AHS students Jarret Bright, Andrew Ding, Joel Nichols, chaperone Pat Ding, and instructor Greg Gilders, attended the International Wood Federation show in Atlanta, Georgia in August. The show is the largest one of its kind in the world. There are over 100 schools in the United States in the WoodLinks organization and approximately 20 participated in the contest. The Alexander camp chair was selected to be one the five finalists and was displayed at the IWF show. There were five criteria for judging: a popular vote of people attending the Expo, the design of the project, the marketing plan, the method of shipping and packaging, and the ability of the students to present their project. The AHS team won the popular vote and finished second in the national contest. Because of their strong finish, they have been contacted by many companies to help them with supplies and equipment for the program. Congratulations to the WoodLinks class and their amazing accomplishments just one year into the program.

*“Give the man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach the man to fish and he will eat for a lifetime.”*

## CSI: Middle School Math Study Team



Math teachers at the Middle School are working in partnership with the Southeastern Ohio Center of Excellence In Mathematics and Science. Each group works with a University partner. Dr. Gordon Brooks is working with us. The focus of the study group is to study a math lesson presented during the 88-minutes math block. After presenting the lesson to students, the team reflects, revisits and revises the lesson using the Japanese Lesson Study format. Once evaluated and revisions are made, the lesson is taught again. This cycle will be repeated with various lessons throughout the school year.