

# ASHLEY ELEMENTARY

52347 Ashley, New Baltimore, MI 48047 (586) 725-2801 Cathy Pennington, Principal

## *ANNUAL REPORT 2004-2005*



### MISSION STATEMENT

We at Ashley Elementary in recognizing the learning differences of all children, will strive to promote positive growth, behavior, and attitude in a safe, nurturing environment that supports a high level of academic and social performance. Hand-in-hand with parents, staff and community, our students will begin to realize their potential as responsible confident, life-long learners able to make correct choices and accept consequences for their actions.



### *From the Principal . . .*

Today's schools face many new challenges in providing a well-rounded education for our children. With the rapid pace of developing technology adding to the mix, teachers and administrators must continue to grow professionally to meet the increasingly diverse needs of our students. The staff at Ashley Elementary School has experienced many opportunities this year to hone their skills and develop their talents even further in order to continue to offer the best education possible to our students.

We continue to provide a safe and exciting learning environment for your child to enjoy. Our staff enriches the curriculum with a wide variety of hands-on learning experiences including our in school banking program, class field trips, and virtual field trips and challenging real world projects. Guest speakers and assemblies are further examples of how our staff attempts to bring the outside world closer to home. Our strong commitment to developing a sense of civic duty through our school wide Student Council activities has led to a myriad of service projects in which all students can participate. We also have a AAA Safety Patrol program which continues to teach responsibility and community service values.

The Parent Teacher Group members and parent volunteers deserve our most sincere thanks for making so many of our school activities possible and successful. Without the support of parents in the educational process, the success of our children would be much harder to obtain. Working together as a community of learners, we can and do make a tremendous difference in the lives of our children.

Sincerely,

Cathy Pennington  
Principal

## ASHLEY ELEMENTARY MEETS HIGH NCA STANDARDS SET FORTH BY THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

To sustain membership in NCA, schools must meet both membership and improvement criteria annually and engage in continuous school improvement that focuses on improving student performance.

Our first priority is providing quality learning opportunities for students. The dedication of our students, staff and parents to this priority is reflected in our school's accreditation status.

This past year Ashley Elementary staff have implemented their action plan for each goal area. Assessments, strategies and activities to support goal interventions were implemented to follow our action plan for each goal area. Ashley Elementary had their site visit from the NCA visiting team. Our next step is to collect and input data to see if our strategies are working to show student progress and improvement in each goal area. The school improvement process is ongoing and each school year the progress of students in these areas will be monitored to show continuous improvement.

### GOALS FOCUS ON STUDENT SUCCESS

Ashley Elementary School is dedicated to the school improvement process. We have several goals that we believe will help us enhance our teaching strategies and improve student achievement. Our goals were defined as a result of demonstrated need. Ashley collected and looked at previous State and district assessments, student work samples as well as surveys from parents, teachers and students to determine our goal areas. The results of all this collected information served to drive our school improvement process. The following is a list of our goals and our progress in each area.

❖ **All students will use the writing process to communicate effectively and creatively.**

Ashley Elementary will emphasize writing and proper grammar techniques to enhance students' ability to use the written language in all subjects.

❖ **All students will increase their ability to use problem solving skills.**

Students need to be able to transfer the skill of problem solving to their every day life.

❖ **All students will improve their ability to read for information.**

Success in all curricular areas is based on the ability to be a proficient reader. Reading is essential in school and life in general. Students need to be prepared with the tools to read and comprehend informational text.

❖ **All students will display appropriate responsibility for their age and ability.**

Ashley was the pilot school for PBS (Positive Behavior Support) through the Macomb Intermediate School District. Positive Behavior Support is a problem-solving approach to behavior concerns. PBS involves systematically looking at when, where, and why a student behaves the way he or she does. PBS also involves deciding upon interventions that are most likely to create the kinds of environments in which the student can learn responsible behavior and achieve academic success. Staff members model appropriate behaviors, discussions on proper choices and responsibility in our newly implemented program called Peace Works. Time will be spent each week learning appropriate behaviors. Students are rewarded for their being responsible through "cookies and milk" with the principal, Student of the Month awards, lunch with the principal, movies and popcorn and positive phone calls made by staff and administration.



<b>ASHLEY'S A C AWARD</b>	
Presented to:	_____
Teacher:	_____
Location:	<input type="checkbox"/> CLASSROOM <input type="checkbox"/> CAFETERIA <input type="checkbox"/> HALLWAY <input type="checkbox"/> PLAYGROUND <input type="checkbox"/> BUS <input type="checkbox"/> _____
Rule	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Followed: <input type="checkbox"/> Kind <input type="checkbox"/> Responsible <input type="checkbox"/> Respectful
Given by:	_____

**COOKIES & MILK  
WITH THE PRINCIPAL**

Student incentive for earning ABC Awards through our Positive Behavior Program

## EXAMINING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH MEAP TEST SCORES

Each year our fourth and fifth grade students are tested through the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP). MEAP tests measure the performance of fourth grade students in reading and math, and fifth grade students in science and social studies.

This chart outlines our students' 2004 and 2005 achievements in each tested area. In addition, our school monitors MEAP performance by gender to ensure that equal learning opportunities are offered to all students.

### Ashley Elementary School 2004 MEAP

#### 2005: Grade 4

	Level 1: Exceeded MI Standards	Level 2: Met Met MI Standards	Level 3: At Basic Level	Level 4: Apprentice
<b>TOTAL</b>				
ELA	19	74	6	1
Math	52	34	11	4
Reading	42	53	4	1
Writing	8	69	21	1

#### 2005: Grade 5

Science	36	51	12	1
Social Studies	3	37	25	35

### Anchor Bay School District 2004 MEAP

#### 2004: Grade 4

	Level 1: Exceeded MI Standards	Level 2: Met Met MI Standards	Level 3: At Basic Level	Level 4: Apprentice
<b>TOTAL</b>				
ELA	6	62	26	5
Math	24	48	24	5
Reading	21	59	16	5
Writing	5	53	36	6

#### 2004: Grade 5

Science	33	51	14	1
Social Studies	4	25	35	36

#### Comparison of last year's 2004 MEAP scores to this year's 2005 MEAP scores

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
<b>ELA</b>		
Students Reaching Level I & II (Proficiency)	83%	93%
<b>Math</b>		
Students Reaching Level I & II (Proficiency)	81%	86%
<b>Science</b>	91%	87%
<b>Social Studies</b>	31%	40%

## EDUCATION, YES!

According to Michigan's Education, Yes! Each school receives a report card grade based on specific criteria. Ashley Elementary received an "A" on its Education, Yes! Report Card. This report card provides an assessment of several measures of the school's performance which include:

- Student Achievement Status 93% A
  - Indicators of School Performance 98.9% A
- GRADE 93.6 A**

Due to more than 95% of students taking the MEAP as well as the number of students proficient in ELA and Math, Ashley Elementary made Adequate Yearly Progress. Adequate Yearly Progress is a measure used to hold schools responsible for student achievement in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

### Attendance Statistics

As part of the reporting requirements for No Child Left Behind we are sharing a variety of statistics for your review.

The attendance data below shows the number of days with 96% or more students in attendance. These great attendance rates significantly contribute to the academic success of our students.

#### Attendance Data

Days with 96% or better attendance	2003-2004	2004-2005
<b>Overall</b>	124 days	162 days



## TECHNOLOGY

The Anchor Bay Community has really pulled together to give Ashley students wonderful opportunities to explore technology in their new lab. Twenty-eight computers now have online access and headphones. Our lab is networked and has an s-video hook up at its teacher station. The district has provided Type to Learn III software for upper elementary students and Type to Learn, Jr. for younger grades. Our generous PTG has provided the lab with complete sets of World Book Encyclopedias, Living Books, and other reading readiness and math software. After researching and gathering data relevant to grade level curriculum, our students have created and presented slide shows in KidPix and PowerPoint, spreadsheets in Excel, and documents in Microsoft Word. In addition, students have learned skills in Internet safety, typing, and word processing. We are so proud of our lab and so thankful that our community values technology instruction. Our students have been given technology opportunities that will better prepare them for a bright, successful future.

82% PARTICIPATION  
FOR  
PARENT TEACHER  
CONFERENCES

## PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

One of the most important factors of a child's success in school is the involvement of parents or guardians in the educational process. Ashley Elementary School had 82% of our parents attending conferences. Personal contacts, assignment sheets, written correspondence and telephone calls also keep our staff and parents aware of students' progress during the year.



## DISTRICT CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Anchor Bay Schools has worked hard to develop a curriculum in all content areas that aligns with the Michigan Curriculum Framework. The Michigan Curriculum Framework document consists of content standards and benchmarks in each of the four core content areas of Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, and English/language Arts.

Core curriculum sub-committees were established to align the district's curriculum standards with those of the State of Michigan, as well as with the district's vision and mission. The purpose of the curriculum sub-committees was to develop instructional strategies and assessment outcomes for each grade level. In addition, committees reviewed/recommended student materials and textbooks which were necessary in all areas of the curriculum for implementation of the instructional strategies. Curriculum development occurred during school district professional development days, in after-school staff meetings, and in department and grade level meetings.

The curriculum process strives to meet the needs of all students in the Anchor Bay Schools by continually revising and teaching the district core curriculum standards and the extended learning opportunities provided to students at all educational levels.



ASHLEY ELEMENTARY

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Anchor Bay School District Website  
[www.anchorbay.misd.net](http://www.anchorbay.misd.net)

No Child Left Behind legislation also requires schools to ensure that all teachers meet the requirements for Highly Qualified teachers. Ashley Elementary teachers meet these requirements. Over half of our teachers have advanced degrees. Currently half of the teachers with Bachelors degrees are working on an advanced degree.

### SCHOOL HEALTH TEAM NETWORK

St. Joseph's Mercy of Macomb partners with local schools to improve the health of Macomb County students, teachers and families. Through the partnership, support is provided to the school community for education on risk factors, first aid and chronic diseases; providing safety programs; and making current health resources available.

Individuals from our school community formed our Health Team with the guidance of St. Joseph's Hospital. Some programs we offered this year were:

- Peanut allergy education
- Germs and hand washing classes
- News articles
- Fitness training
- Nutrition Training
- Talking Tobacco
- Bullying Assembly

### SCHOOL ENHANCEMENT

Our school takes pride in the many different programs offered striving to develop literacy skills. Teachers, administration and parents attend many workshops in this area. Ashley Elementary teachers teach literacy using a balanced approach. This is accomplished through a well-planned and well-delivered instruction based on research and best practices. Our balanced literacy classrooms offer read-alouds, write-alouds, shared writing, interactive writing, guided writing, independent reading, guided reading, interactive reading and shared reading.

Milestone assessments are used to monitor progress and digging deeper assessments are used to identify literacy development problems. Progress profiles are completed on all students. Assessment data is used to manage classroom instruction. Assessment data is used to communicate progress. This documents the students' growth.

We participate in the Accelerated Reading Program. The students are excited and we have more reading going on than ever. We celebrated March as reading month.

We have again been very fortunate to have an active group of dedicated parents who have not only helped out by providing additional resources but have also provided assistance in the classrooms. We continued our Family Book Club program for our students needing extra one-on-one practice. By working together, we believe we can continue to add and improve the instructional opportunities that are available for the Ashley Elementary students.

### ASHLEY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- Ashley & Citizen's Bank Banking Program
- Band Program
- Student Council
- Parent Teacher Group
- Health Team
- Book Fair
- Big Stone School
- Field and Fun Day
- Accelerated Reader
- Meet the Teacher Night
- Coney Night
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Career Day
- Kite Day
- 100's Day
- Family Fun Night
- Family Geography Night
- Paper People
- Step-Up Day
- Book It
- After School Tutoring
- Physical Fitness Day
- Star Lab
- Fourth Grade Camp
- Food Drive
- Positive Behavior Support Program
- Safety Patrol
- Milk & Cookies with the Principal
- Lunch with the Principal
- Secret Garden
- Bikes for Books
- Living Science
- Family Book Club
- Grade Level Music Programs
- Christmas Giving Tree
- Jump Rope for Heart
- Human Growth & Development Classes
- Relay for Life Participation
- Study Island
- My Kids ID
- Band O Rama (5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band)
- Mobile Learning
- Mobile Dentist
- Santa Shoppe
- Spirit Days
- Walk to School Days
- Assemblies- Pollution Solution
- Lost in the Woods Book
- Michigan Birds of Prey
- Author: Rhonda Gowler-Green