February 9 marks the end of the NWEA Winter Testing Period. The NWEA test is administered in grades one through five in the fall, winter and spring. The NWEA assesses English language arts, mathematics and science. The NWEA tests are called Measures of Academic Progress, or MAP. These tests are taken by students on the computer. The level of difficulty of the questions adjusts for each student, depending on the answers provided. As students answer correctly, the questions become more difficult. If the student answers questions incorrectly, the level of difficulty becomes easier. It typically takes less than one hour for a student to complete a test.

MAP tests are an important measure for teachers to track progress and growth in basic skills. Teachers use this information to guide instruction in the classroom. The results of the MAP tests are also used with other data to determine which students may need additional support, such as Title I teaching services. The NWEA MAP tests will be administered again in the last two weeks of May.

The KRA (Kindergarten Readiness Assessment) is a developmentally appropriate assessment tool designed to measure school readiness of kindergarten students. This assessment was recently administered. The KRA assesses Language and Literacy, Mathematics, Social Foundations and Physical Well-Being and Motor Development. Parents of kindergarten students were provided the results of the KRA tests for their children. The results of the tests are used by teachers to guide instruction for individual students, as well as the entire class.

The MSTEP tests are administered to students in grades 3, 4 and 5 in April, May or June, depending on the grade of the student. A detailed schedule will be forthcoming. There are some changes to the MSTEP compared to last year.

The tests are much shorter in duration this year. The average testing time has been reduced dramatically at each grade. The new timeframe was created through the elimination of the Performance Tasks for English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics.

Another change involves moving the science test from fourth grade to fifth grade. Here are the grade levels and tests that will be administered for MSTEP:

- 3rd Grade - ELA and Mathematics
- 4th Grade - ELA and Mathematics
- 5th Grade - ELA, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies

This year’s Science MSTEP test is based on the Next Generation of Science Standards.

The MSTEP tests are untimed. Students can take as much time as they need. Not all students have to be tested on the same tests on the same day, so scheduling can be flexible and according to student need.

As with the NWEA and KRA, the results of the MSTEP are used to not only shape programming at each grade level, but also to determine individual student strengths. Although standardized tests such as the NWEA, KRA and MSTEP provide valuable data to us, we recognize their limitations. That is why we combine the results of these tests with other classroom measures to truly measure student progress.

We know that the best thing we can do for students who take standardized tests are ready to do so. We have made it a priority to ensure that students have been prepared to take such tests, so that they have a feeling of confidence and success.
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Feb. 9th
Brick PTO Valentines Dance

Feb. 12th
NAAPID Day

Feb. 14th
Spirit Day “STEM Career”

Feb. 15th
Food Gatherers Distribution

Feb. 16th
Early Release
School ends at 1:26

Feb. 19th
No School, Presidents Day

Feb. 20th
Brick PTO Meeting
6:30 Brick Parent Room

Feb. 23rd
Brick Movie Night 6:00
Fundraiser pick up 4-8:00

March 6th
Brick Multicultural Literacy Night 6:00

Brick PTO Valentine’s Day Dance

The Brick PTO crew will be hosting a Valentine Day Dance on February 9th, 2018. The dance is from 6:00-8:00 in the Brick Café. The Brick BOOK FAIR will also be running during the dance in the Brick Gym:) We will have lots of fun activities and great music to dance too!

YOU’RE INVITED

You’re invited to be a part of the AWE-SOME group of parents that help support OUR students and staff at Brick! Please come to a meeting and share your voice, your ideas, your questions, and your experiences with us! We would love to have your input on upcoming fundraisers and future events. Brick PTO is looking for Core Officers this year, PLEASE contact Kari Branham is interested!

Don’t forget to sign up for Brick Kroger Rewards, where Brick makes money on all the purchases you make!)

Family Movie Night

The EMOJI MOVIE

Friday, Feb. 23
6:00 p.m.
Brick Auditorium

National Parent Involvement Day is on MONDAY, February 12, 2018!!

Brick welcomes ALL parents, guardians or special adults in our Brick students lives, to visit Brick for National Parent Involvement Day!

We have a full day of fun activities planned for families starting with breakfast in the Parent Room at 8:30!

Stay for awhile or stay ALL day!!

We look forward to seeing you!!
Unfortunately, the Campbell Labels program is discontinued.

However, BOX TOPS is continuing! So, please keep bringing them in to Brick! Thank you so much.

**Box Tops for Education**

My dog Zoey is a German Shepard. She is 5 years old. Her birthday is in June. My dog has a metal collar made of rings so she can’t chew it. I like to play with her. We play tug of war, that is our favorite game to play. I try to play fetch with her but whenever I do Zoey will not drop the ball.

**Brick Service Project**

Ms. Cannon’s and Ms. Johnson’s classes collected supplies for the Huron Valley Humane Society. Brick students care about their community!
Brick 4th graders have been learning about our world’s different power sources, fossil fuels. They have been specifically looking at hydro power. As part of this learning, the students were given the challenge to find ways to power a community. They also made water wheels using classroom material as part of this STEM project.

GO BRICK 4th GRADERS!!

***STEM AT BRICK***

Crafty Person Needed

Brick would like to have a “Free Little Library” placed outside near the bench. However, we are in need of a crafty volunteer willing to make the library:) If you are interested please contact us!!

Brick PTO Winter Fundraiser

Started January 25, 2018! Forms available in the office!

Lots of prizes to win at each grade level!!

Brick Student Council Updates:

The Pencil Box was a HIT! Mostly everyone came. We had bookmarks, folders, pencils, erasers, pencil grippers, key chains, toys and A-LOT more. We made a lot of money that will be used for the Brick Beautification Project! A BIG thanks to Mrs. Cox and my other Student Councils Members! I hope to see you all Thursday, February 8th before school for grades 1st and 2nd!

Thank you for shopping!
By, Abigail Rogers
Be sure to Like the Brick Elementary PTO page for updates about PTO and school news.

Thank you to Mrs. Massey and Mrs. Rogers for being Brick’s Head Coaches for this years Science Olympiad Team!!

Sign up forms are available in the Brick office and the Parent Room!

GO BRICK!!

Brick Elementary is looking for a few parent volunteers to become Event Coaches for this AWESOME program.

**Brick PTO Candy Grams**

Students and staff at Brick have an opportunity to buy Candy Grams to send to friends, teachers and parents!!

If you don’t have an order form, they are available in the Brick office and Parent Room.

Please return the order forms to the Brick office by Thursday, Feb. 8th.

Candy Grams will be delivered to classrooms on Wednesday, February 14th.

Thank you to Mrs. Massey and Mrs. Rogers for being Brick’s Head Coaches for this year's Science Olympiad Team!!

**Brick Girls on the Run**

Girls on the Run is a program for Brick students grades 3-5th.

Brick is looking for COACHES for this year's session!! Please consider volunteering to coach! It’s a wonderful opportunity to empower young ladies and spend time with your child.

Registration began on January 25th. You can pick up a form in the Parent Room or the Brick Office.

If interested in becoming a coach, please contact the Brick Office.

Thank you in advance!

**Jump Rope For Heart**

Jump Rope For the Heart will be going on the month of February here at Brick.

Classes will be participating in jump roping activities each week during the Specials time.

Money that is being raised is due on March 9, 2018.

Right now Brick Elementary is #4 in most money raised to date out of our region!

GREAT WORK BRICK!!

**SAVE THE DATE**

**JOIN US FOR**

Brick Multicultural Literacy Night!!

**WHEN:**

TUESDAY, March 6th

FROM 6:00-7:30 PM

AT BRICK ELEMENTARY CAFATERIA!

**WHAT:**

Join us for guest readers, crafts and dancers! Please bring in a family favorite snack or food from a different country to share!
BRICK PBIS Celebrations

We at Brick are so proud of all our students for making great choices and for practicing our school motto of: Be Safe, Be Responsible and Be Respectful!

Once a month, we like to celebrate the great choices our students make!

Scholastic Book Fair
Volunteer NEEDED

The Brick PTO is looking for individuals to help with the Brick Book Fair on Feb. 9, 2018...it’s the same time as the Valentine’s day Dance!

Being a Brick family you are automatically a part of your Brick PTO!
Please consider helping with this awesome event!

Please contact Kari Branham if interested at: haag@med.umich.edu OR call the Brick office:)

K-Kids Club

Brrrrrr…It’s cold outside!!

K-kids Club made scarves for students in their school to keep them warn.

K-Kids Club meets once a month and work together to make Brick a better place for all students!

Thank you K-Kids!