The first grading period (1st quarter) officially ended on October 15th and the news on student achievement is excellent. "We have great kids in Brunswick, pure and simple." Mr. Sharosky said. We had 405 of our 578 students make the academic rolls and that is awesome. Mr. Sharosky said. "That's 70% of our students that have a Grade Point Average from 3.0 to above 4.0."

The Merit roll features students who have a G.P.A. from 3.0 to 3.49. The 6th grade had 43 students reach this level of achievement. The 7th grade had 41 students and the 8th grade had 55 students at the Merit Roll level.

The Honor Roll recognizes students who have a G.P.A. from 3.5 to 3.99. The 6th grade had 78 students, the 7th grade had 103 students and the 8th grade had 44 students make the Honor Roll. "It's very exciting to see the progress of the 6th graders because they are in a transition year." Mr. Sharosky said.

The final category is the Principal's Roll which is for students with a GPA of 4.0 or higher. There were 41 students make this honor; 8 sixth graders, 21 seventh graders and 12 eighth graders. The students were recognized on October 31st at the Honor/Merit Roll Breakfast.

"I have asked the teachers to increase the level of rigor" Sharosky said. "As teachers continue to ask students to complete more rigorous tasks, it is wonderful to see that this many students are continuing to be successful."

There were 41 students who made the Principal’s roll, which is reserved for students with a G.P.A. at or above a 4.0. The 6th grade had 43 students reach this level of achievement. The 7th grade had 41 students and the 8th grade had 55 students at the Merit Roll level.

**Students earn perfect G.P.A.**

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**Visintainer students start year strong**
The 2015 8th grade South volleyball season may not have been one of many wins, it was one of many memories.

“The amount of work put into the season by each of the girls was incredible, and every day of the season a little more improvement had been seen.” Mr. Wenmoth said. “The final few games of the season saw some great competition with South just falling short.

The highlight of the season was collecting over $2200 for the Northeast Ohio Susan G. Komen Foundation chapter by holding our annual Volley for the Cure game against Willetts. In the past, it’s a rivalry game, but we wanted to step away from that since those girls will all be playing on the same team next year, which is why we began playing the game. This year was by far the largest collection to date, and that was only because of the girls and their parents willingness to donate and help the cause.”

The huge donation was especially overwhelming for Coach Wenmoth, since a major reason he started this game was that his mother is a survivor of breast cancer.

“The final tournament of the season and our pizza party was a time to reflect on the reason we play the game: we love volleyball. The girls are good at it, and it’s a second family for them. I appreciate the opportunity to have been their coach this year, as we always make new memories with new teams. I wish them success in the future and hope their volleyball playing continues throughout their lives.” Wenmoth said.

Remember to keep collecting your Box Tops! The Box Top challenge is planned for January 4-22. The grade level team bringing in the most box tops wins a party!

Cleaning out closets, basements, or toy rooms in preparation for the holidays? Consider donating your gently used items, to the Visintainer Rummage Sale, to help raise money for a new sound system for our gym. The rummage sale is planned for March 2016.

PTO will be selling concessions at the 7th and 8th grade boys/girls basketball games at Visintainer. Please consider volunteering a few hours. Specific dates to come.

Thank you!
PTO Executive Board
Brunswick South orchestra gets spooky

It was a frightfully delightful evening on Wednesday, October 14th at the James P. Hayas Performing Arts Center as the Brunswick South (a combination of Visintainer and Edwards Middle Schools) Orchestra took the stage for their fall concert.

The students were all dressed in Halloween costumes which gave the evening a whimsical air.

The 6th grade orchestra opened the show with “November” which is a Bohemian folk song. They followed with an American fiddle tune “Cripple Creek.”

The seventh grade followed with “American Fiddle Medley” and “March of the Shadows.”

The 8th grade had the best song titles of the evening as they performed “Night Ride” and “Curse of the Rosin Eating Zombies from Outer Space.” Both were composed by Richard Meyer. The zombie tune was punctuated with live screams which was quite startling at first.

The show closed with a performance of the Brunswick HS Philharmonia String Orchestra.

The Brunswick South orchestras are under the direction of Rebecca Barko.

The next concert is December 16th at the BHS Concord Theatre.

Students of the month

Each week Visintainer Middle School honors a student at each grade level as being the student of the week. In addition, there is a monthly Student of the Month selection. Students receiving the honor of STUDENT OF THE MONTH are recognized for meeting all six of the criteria listed below. Each student has to meet all six criteria in ALL of their classes as the entire teaching team decides upon the students to be selected each month.

CRITERIA:
1. Shows respect and consideration for others.
2. Shows enthusiasm for academic and extracurricular activities.
3. Exerts a positive influence on classmates.
4. Exhibits leadership characteristics.
5. Exhibits patriotism and democratic principles.
6. Shows responsibility (punctuality, assignments, etc.)

Visintainer’s students of the month for October were: Mara Gurtsak (Aviators), Michael Jamison (Cardinals) and Andrew Shenal (Encore) in the 6th grade; Ashli Snider (Rock-n-Rollers), Rebecca Milkovich (Rock Stars) and Kaitlyn Tumney (Encore) in the 7th grade; Melody Lebus (Buckeyes), Ben Gregg (Edison) and Francesca Lucan (Encore) in the 8th grade.

All recipients will receive a commemorative t-shirt and a certificate from Mr. Sharosky. They will also be recognized on the school website and a receive a candy prize.
This year the Brunswick South sports program joined the new Greater Cleveland Conference. The Brunswick South 8th grade football team completed their 2015 football season with a 4-4 record. “The season had it’s ups and downs but the team persevered and overcame the challenge of installing a brand new offense to complete a respectable campaign.” Coach Rick Buchner said.

The offense was led by Billy McKee’s 18 touchdowns. Chase Safko lead the team with several touchdown passes and two point conversions passes.

Leading the way on the offensive line were Justin and Jeremiah Guzman.

The defense put in some great efforts this year. The defense was led by the play of Christian Kovacek, Matt James, Kyle Ready, and Nick Hoover.

“Good luck next year when you move up to 9th grade!” Coach Buchner said.

The team was coached by Edwards’ teacher, Rick Buchner, and Brian Lemmer, a physical education teacher at Hickory Ridge Elementary.

Each month Visintainer recognizes the staff members who have made contributions to the success of their students.

For the month of August, Mrs. Dana Grebey was recognized as “Educator of the Month.” Mrs. Grebey is an 6th grade Social Studies and Science teacher at Visintainer. Even though we have lost team leaders, Mrs. Grebey continues to lead amongst her colleagues. She is a member of the building PBIS team and has helped to insure the implementation of those principles at Visintainer. She is also a member of the Social Committee that helps to keep the building collegiality alive to the benefit of students.

September saw the selection of Julie Jakub as the Educator of the Month. When a shift in enrollment and the retirement of a colleague necessitated the move of a staff member, Mrs. Jakub volunteered. Although she had spent two years defining the curriculum for her class, she moved to the 7th grade to teach science as part of the Rock-n-Rollers team demonstrating her commitment to the students and her passion for teaching science. When another staff member was injured, Mrs. Jakub volunteered to do the all-important crosswalk duty for Edwards and Visintainer.

As we closed October, Mrs. Mindy Davidson was selected as educator of the month. A parent sent an email to Mr. Sharosky stating, “I just had to write to you and tell you how much I appreciate a wonderful teacher, Mrs. Davidson, Intervention teacher at Visintainer. Numerous times this year she has gone above and beyond to help my son, make a smooth transition to middle school. She is always willing to go the extra mile and I just wanted you to know what a great job she is doing. I was so worried about the transition from elementary to middle school, but Mrs. Davidson has done an excellent job in helping (my child and I) through the transition, and even when he has been upset, she helped to work him through it. I don’t think teachers get enough compliments from parents, but Mrs. Davidson really deserves a special thank you.”

Mrs. Davidson is also a member of the Building Leadership Team.
7th grade football builds for future

The 2015 7th grade Brunswick South Football team finished their regular season with a record of 4-2 which placed them in a three-way tie for first place in the league. The team was coached by Visintainer teachers Chris Esterak (PE) and Steve Yoak (7th grade math).

“The team finished the season with a 10-0 loss to Solon at Brunswick Automart Stadium on Saturday October 17th in the first Cross Divisional tournament game for football.” Coach Esterak said.

The Brunswick South teams (A combination of the student-athletes from Edwards and Visintainer) joined the Greater Cleveland Conference this year which features schools from Elyria, Medina, and Strongsville.

Coach Esterak and Coach Yoak would like to thank the Parents, Players, Athletic Director and Administrators for all of their support this year. Great Job Gentleman!

Blue Devils finish fourth in NOCMSL

The seventh grade volleyball team was seeded fourth in the tournament and ended the tournament as the fourth place team. They had one of their best performances in the first round of the tournament against Medina Claggett and pulled out an exciting win! They had recently lost to Medina Claggett earlier in the week.

“Coach told us to practice hard and keep a positive attitude throughout the season and it would pay off in the tournament.” Maggie McGinnis said. “We got this!” Mercedes Candow said. “We practiced this game situation in practice and we were ready when the score was 24-23.”

The Lady Blue Devils were able to win in the third game to advance to the second round against Strongsville Albion. Strongsville Albion was the number one seed in the tournament.

“Coach just told us to do our best and play our game,” said Emily Richardson. They came up short against Albion though. They moved onto the consolation game against Willett’s where they lost in two games despite their best efforts.

The girls improved immensely this year and really put in the time and effort to get better. They always had positive attitudes and did their best in the drills presented at practice.

“This was one of my most exciting teams I have had the honor to coach. They just never gave up,” said Coach Peffer. They finished the season with an 8-9 season record. Their record doesn’t really show how many matches went to three games and we lost only by two points. All of our losses were super close.

They competed against Willett’s for the Volley for the Cure game and again raised over $2,000 dollars for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Although they raised a lot of money during their servathon, they lost to Willett’s Middle School at the Volley for the Cure game.

“We did it for a good cause and I have enjoyed this volleyball season,” said Corinne Devorak.

These girls have what it takes to finish in the top 3 next season in the conference.
GO FOR THE GOAL!

Getting a better grade in math. Earning money for a new bike. Winning a part in the school play. Whatever your middle grader’s goals, he can take specific steps to achieve them. You’ll help your child succeed by passing along these tips.

Explore the why’s

To achieve a goal, it must be important. “Passing English class” is good, but “earning an ‘A’ so I can go to college” is better. Why? Because the motivation is clearer. Talk with your middle grader about his goals. If he understands the why’s behind them, he will be more apt to try harder.

Anticipate obstacles

Runners study a course before they begin a marathon. Likewise, your middle grader should think about the hurdles she will face on the way to success. For example, are video games an irresistible distraction? Keep them out of sight. Is she tired after dinner? She could do homework as soon as she gets home from school.

Seek Advice

Have your child look for school or community groups with similar goals, and encourage him to join one. Or suggest that he ask for advice from someone who has accomplished what he wants. Surrounding himself with other motivated kids and cheering friends will inspire look for it.

Challenge her to find a solution. “I know you’re upset about misplacing your new CD. I’m sure you’ll figure out what happened.”

Deliver on promised consequences. For example, if the rule is “Clothes that aren’t in the hamper won’t get washed,” resist the temptation to pick up your child’s dirty laundry. He will know you’re serious.

Let your middle grader solve her own problems. Example: She loses a CD and expects you to replace it. Replace it yourself and explain why. Head off outbursts.

Using Consequences

Teaching your child about consequences helps her be more responsible. Here’s how:

Use relevant consequences.

Example: Your middle grader breaks her phone in anger. Have her do without until she pays for a new one. Replacing it yourself will only encourage further outbursts.

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Q & A

Q: Standardized tests are being given at my son’s school. How do schools use standardized test results?

A: Many schools use standardized test results to compare how students’ skills in one school compare to students elsewhere. Although Visintainer does this as well, the scores may also be used for students to gain entry into specific classes—such as foreign language. Proficiency testing has been around for over a decade to monitor school accountability. Even though there have been numerous changes in which grades the tests are administered, state testing is here to stay. The best way to prepare for any standardized test is a rigorous daily curriculum and study routine.

According to the National Education Association, parents shouldn’t read too much into their children’s scores. An overall picture of your middle grader’s progress should include the teacher’s review of daily class work, as well as observations on his cooperation and his understanding of the material.

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Boys and Girls Cross Country recap

The girls cross country team had an exciting season this year. All the girls showed a high level of determination and passion for running which led to a very successful season.

“The girls showed tremendous improvement over the course of the season with everyone running personal best times the last two meets. At the end of the season at the Medina Festival, the girls brought home a trophy for their fourth place finish overall out of 20 teams! **Emily Bardwell** had an exceptional end to her middle school cross country career with her third place finish overall in the GCC conference. Most of the team will be returning next year as eighth graders and there is no doubt we will be a force to be reckoned with in the upcoming season!” Coach Bender said.

Boys Cross Country had a successful season this year. The boys had some first place finishes in the weekday meets and placed well in the Saturday invitational meets. Leading the team this year was **Jordan Knapp**, placing first in most weekday meets and top 5 in the invitational meets. His personal best time this season was 11:01. Also scoring team points this season were **Colton Uber** (12:02), **Mike Semanco** (13:18), **Jonah Gray** (13:59) and **Will Sopko** (17:16).

“Good luck to the eighth grade runners as they move to the high school team next season and I look forward to coaching the returning runners.” Coach Schweisthal said.

Brunswick South football cheerleaders

The 7th and 8th grade football cheerleaders began practices in August. They learned several of the chants and the fight song that are aligned with the high school varsity team.

The cheerleaders all cheered games together due to limited number of games. They intermixed throughout the season and worked well together. They all performed halftime together, performing a full cheer and chant as their halftime routine. The girls enjoyed cheering for the home football games.

The squads were under the direction of Elizabeth Rinkes, a 5th grade teacher at Kidder Elementary.

Students earn perfect G.P.A.

(Continued from page 1)

**Majstorovic, Emma Mascia, Ilsa Miller, Chase Oberg, Dana Oehme, Hannah Perchinske, Cadence Perry, Kayla Poland, Ashli Snider, Nick Vadini, and Emily Zadzilka** in the 7th grade.

The 8th grade is represented by **Emily Bardwell, Sarah Case, Jenni Drum, Maddie Grabowski, Kaitlyn Holop, Melissa Lebus, Katarina Maras, Darlene Pompa, Maya Roberts, Andrea Schieberl, Cassidy Woods, and Braden Zeman**.

“These kids are awesome. We have a lot of super students, but these are the ‘Avengers’ of our super hero kids” Mr. Sharosky said.
It is hard to believe that the first quarter is over. It has truly been my pleasure to get to know your children this first quarter. I look forward to working with them for the rest of the year.

Parent-teacher conferences were scheduled for yesterday, November 3rd. These conferences are a valuable opportunity to meet with your child’s teachers. We know that teenagers are not the most communicative and to get the parents and staff on the same page is very powerful to ensure student success. If you were unable to attend, please contact the school office and we will work to schedule you a meeting with your child’s teachers.

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, we are recognizing students for their achievements in a variety of ways. One of those ways is the Students of the Week program. The following students have been selected by the staff for their contributions to Visintainer. The week of September 28th featured 8th grader, Maddy Grabowski, 7th grader, Lizzy Regal, and 6th grader Romel White honored as the students of the week. The week of October 5th had Kyleigh Uhrina (6th), Nick Reichelderfer (7th) and Gavin Emery (8th) recognized. Eighth grader Geo Newbould, 7th grader Aubrie Kliment, and 6th grader Elise Ramsey were honored for the week of October 12th. The week of October 19th featured Victoria Cooper (6th), Dylan James (7th), and Chase Safko (8th) chosen. Marissa McKinley (8th), Angela Esposito (7th), and Perron Logan-Anderson (6th) were honored for the last full week of the month.

We have children who have not paid their student fees. We also have students who have charges in the double digits for the cafeteria. It is district policy that students cannot attend field trips if they have not paid their fees. Please contact the office if you have questions regarding your child’s fees.

We always have students in the 8th grade who, because of family circumstances, cannot afford to attend the 8th grade Washington, DC trip. If there are any parents who would like to contribute to the “Angel Fund” which helps to pay for those students to attend, please contact Mr. Sharosky.

From the Principal’s Desk....