On September 18th, Visintainer opened their doors to the male caregivers in their students’ lives as they hosted the second annual “Fathers Walk.”

The Fathers Walk was an opportunity for thousands of fathers, foster fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, godfathers, cousins, and other significant male caregivers to walk or drive their children to school to show their support of their children’s education.

“As the old saying goes, ‘It takes a village to raise a child’ and when men are involved in their child’s education, children perform better in school.” Visintainer Principal, Brian Sharosky said.

William “Bill” Barnes is grandfather to two Visintainer students - 7th grade Josh and 6th grader Alexis. He made it to the Fathers Walk and his granddaughter was very appreciative.

“I liked the donuts” Alexis Barnes said, “but the best part was that our grandpa gave us a ride to school and I got to talk to him. I don’t get to see him all the time.”

The Fathers took their children to the cafeteria where the P.T.O. had provided refreshments.

“It was cool to see that there were older brothers, grandfathers, and uncles amongst our Fathers that morning.” Mr. Sharosky said.

Seventh grader, Tyler Skiba, had his 23-year-old brother, Jamie, attend.

(Continued on page 5)

Homework Club is for all students

“It’s an opportunity for students to get extra help from teachers, work cooperatively in groups with their friends or just have a quiet space to complete their homework” Assistant principal, Jessica Boytim, said about Viz’s new homework club.

Homework Club meets every Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday from 3 pm to 4 pm in the Visintainer library.

In addition to the adults, there are National Junior Honor Society members there to help with peer tutoring.

Students who participate receive a snack for attending and are then registered for a monthly prize drawing.
Viz staff complete ice bucket challenge

On Friday, August 29th, the Visintainer staff completed the ice bucket challenge under sunny skies.

“Thankfully it was warm outside because if it was even a little chilly, that ice water would have been that much more difficult.” Visintainer Principal, Brian Sharosky, said.

Originally the challenge was delivered by Bonnie Kubec, Principal of Kidder Elementary.

“When Mrs. Kubec and the Kidder staff completed their challenge, she issued one to several of the principals and schools in Brunswick.” Sharosky said.

In addition to the staff, Sharosky wanted the students to have the ability to participate as well.

“As one of the district parents pointed out to me, the goal of this is not the ice bucket itself, but to raise awareness and funds for this debilitating disease” Sharosky said. “So I wanted the kids to have the ability to participate without getting soaking wet for the bus ride home.”

The plan was for the teachers to get their soaking right after school, but the involvement of the students created a tremendous amount of interest amongst the student body.

Mr. Sharosky announced that for every dollar that the students brought in, they would have one raffle ticket. Raffle tickets would be pulled and those students would have the opportunity to be the bucket pourers.

Ms. Fleming and Mrs. Guddy helped in the office as the names were pulled and the students were called to the office.

Kayla Poland was the first student ticket pulled and she immediately chose Mr. Blessinger. The following were the students and the staff they poured the ice bucket on:

Kayla Poland - Mr. Blessinger
Raven Crook - Mrs. Schweisthal
Nate Web - Mrs. Shepherd
Brandon Wessner - Mr. Clark
Sophia Parente - Mr. Albright
Antonia Tsouris - Mr. Williamson
Raelee Keller - Miss Delnay
Abby DiSalvo - Mrs. Boytim
Shawn Sobczyk - Mrs. Rhoads
Grace Fauskey - Mrs. Davidson
Lexi Holland - Mrs. Carlisle
Dana Oehme - Mrs. Novak
Melody Lebus - Mr. Yoak
Erica Bogar - Miss Coder
Marissa McKinely - Mr. Salisbury
Becca Hein - Mrs. Slusarski
Olivia Campbell - Miss Schultz
Tony Cipalla - Mrs. Dooling
Tyler Eppelle - Mr. Eseterak
Ilza Miller - Mrs. Jakub
Jessica Willis - Mrs. Wolf
Nicolo Magistro - Mr. Sharosky
Katelyn Buklik - Mr. Zvara
Nate Tobel - Mrs. McCune
Gwen McMonigle - Mrs. Z

Overall, the school raised over $400 to donate to the A.L.S. Society.

Students and staff review A.L.I.C.E. training

On Friday, October 3rd, Visintainer Middle School will be conducting an “Active Threat” drill.

Last year all of the district employees received training in the A.L.I.C.E. program.

“Our number one priority, even above education, is the safety of our students” Principal, Brian Sharosky said.

This year the staff reviewed the previous training and discussed updates and modifications to the building’s safety and emergency response procedures.

All of the students were given a walking tour of the building to discuss potential evacuation sites and what to do in the event of an intruder.

“All of the students, even our new 6th graders received this instruction at the elementary level last year. We reviewed what that would look like at Visintainer and made sure our new students are up to speed.” Sharosky said.

The Brunswick City School District and the Brunswick Police Department will again be partnering in District-Wide Active Threat Drills that will be occurring the first week of October in all of the district’s eleven buildings.
Walk for Excellence

The Visintainer Middle School PTO hosted our second “Walk for Excellence” on Friday, October 17, 2013. There were 467 students who participated.

“Last year PTO sponsored the Funky Fall Fun Run and the weather didn’t cooperate. We had it scheduled and it kept getting rained out. Eventually we had to move it to the cafeteria. The ladies played music and the kids had snacks, but it wasn’t the same.” Principal Sharosky said.

“This year the weather was beautiful (see pictures) and other than the abundance of bees, the walk turned out beautifully.”

The walk was a fundraiser to raise money, for students and the school, to continually support activities, assemblies, and update school equipment throughout the year, as well as, promote physical activity, and a sense of community.

“The goal was to raise money, without the fuss of selling items. No need for door-to-door selling or delivering of products. All of the money raised will go directly to your child’s education. We do not have to share profits with an outside company.” PTO President Donna Miller said.

The A.A. classes with the highest participation in each grade won an ice cream party. Mrs. Grebey’s 6th grade class was the first to reach 100% participation and won the 6th grade ice cream party. Mr. Thompson’s class was the winner in the 7th grade. Mrs. Dooling’s and Mrs. Klingbeil’s classrooms will share the award for the 8th grade.
Mrs. Z selected as teacher of the year

Every year in the Brunswick City School district each building honors one of its teachers as the “Teacher of the Year.” Visintainer Middle School selected Mrs. Tara Zielaskiewicz as its Teacher of the Year.

“Good Lord, I was excited, surprised and, of course, honored to be selected” She said.

Mrs. Zielaskiewicz is a member of the Rock Stars team and served as team leader last year. She teaches math and social studies in the seventh grade.

Mrs. Z (as she is called by her students) has been teaching for 12 years in Brunswick after graduating from Baldwin-Wallace university.

The award has been given out every year since 2002. Previous winners include Mrs. McCune (2002-2003), Mrs. Gribben (2004-05), Mrs. Davis (2008-09), Mr. Blessinger (2009-10), Mrs. Jeppe (2010-11), Mrs. Grebey (2011-12) and Mrs. Novak (2013-14).

Educators of the month recognized

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

The program was started last year by Mr. Sharosky to recognize the achievements of the Visintainer staff.

“All of us like to be recognized for the positive things we do and this was an opportunity to recognize the teachers who consistently go above and beyond for our kids.” Sharosky said.

For the month of August, Mrs. Gina Slusarski and Mr. Robert Salisbury were recognized as “Educators of the Month.”

Mrs. Slusarski is Visintainer’s librarian/media specialist. She does such an awesome job with finding resources for her colleagues; making time for students in the library, and trying to foster in each student a love of reading. She volunteered to help with the transition of the announcements and overseeing the tech crew that actually creates the announcements. She has planned and executed the book fair and will do so again this year. She also jumped on board with the homework club and offered to cover those sessions as needed. She has also been an invaluable help in the completion of the students taking their CAPs assessments.

Mr. Salisbury is the 6th 7th & 8th grade technology teacher and a member of the Encore Tribe. Mr. Salisbury has been helpful to his colleagues in regards to technology issues. He was very proactive in working across the buildings to troubleshoot problems with using desktop computers for SLO testing. He has also taken a leadership role with his team in organizing activities for students. He has a great sense of humor and always go above and beyond for students.

Mr. Clark is a physical education teacher at Visintainer. He works with students in grades six, seven, and eight. He is a member of the Encore Tribe of teachers. Mr. Clark met with Mrs. Boytim to plan activities for the conclusion of the Walk for Excellence. He planned the activities with little or no direction so that the kids would really enjoy the afternoon. Mr. Clark always does what is best for kids. During the Encore SAC, he had some great ideas for the District’s “Relaxed and Ready” plan.

He is patient, kind, positive and professional. For these reasons and many more not listed, Mr. Clark deserves to be recognized for all his hard work.

Mr. Thompson teaches seventh grade Social Studies at Visintainer. He is a member of the Rock-n-Rollers team. Chad Thompson has transitioned into the Viz family very well. He is positive and enthusiastic and the students have nothing but great things to say about him. He has shown creativity in the classroom, been collaborative with his team and always puts his students first. He demonstrates positive learning and growth to our students.
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 two 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 August were: **Maham Khan, Gabe Mernik and John Blasco** in the 6th grade; **Leah Bruzda, Gavin Emery and Marissa McKinley** in the 7th grade; **Kristin O’Deens, Tristan Battani and Greg Lightcap** in the 8th grade.

For the month of September, **Madalyn Dietrich, Quintyn McKinley and Blake Schumacher** were the 6th grade honorees. **Angelina Lotarski, Ryan Mullikin and Austin Holzheimer** were chosen for the 7th grade. **Claire Haynie, Colin Murrall and Chaz Smith** were the 8th grade recipients.

All recipients will receive a certificate from Mr. Sharosky, recognition on the school website and a...
Art Club kicks off October 7th

Have you ever wanted to express yourself creatively through painting, drawing or sculpture? Well then, Visintainer’s Art Club would be for you!

The Art Club is directed by Viz’s Art Teacher, Miss Nicole Schultz.

The Art Club is a great opportunity for students in any grade level to increase their creativity and art skills.

Art Club meets most Tuesdays from 3-4 pm October 7th thru March 10th. To pay for the supplies the program uses, there is a $30 fee. That fee includes the district’s $15 participation fee. Checks should be made out to “Brunswick City Schools.”

Space is limited so parents should return the permission slip as soon as possible.

Visintainer web site—check it out!

Visintainer Middle School has its own web page. Did you know that? It contains lots of information about everything associated with Viz.

“We live in such a digital age” Mr. Sharosky said. “We are used to finding information on the internet in a click or two. The goal of our site is to inform parents and promote all of the things our school is doing. The site is being re-worked.”

For those that have never visited the Visintainer web site, it can be accessed at: http://www.bcsoh.org/Page/15

There are several links to district resources off of that main page, but Visintainer parents want to check out the “Links” across the top bar of the page. Those are “Home”, “Our School”, “Guidance”, “Student Involvement”, “Resources”, “PTO”, “Athletics”, “Teacher Sites”, and “Teams.”

“Our School” features the section titled “About Visintainer” which is an information section about the school.

“Guidance” is the section that speaks to the guidance program as well as the middle school courses and the anti-bullying policy.

“Student Involvement” features our Superstudents section which highlights our excellent students. There is also information about the school clubs and activities.

“Resources” is a series of informational links for families.

The “PTO” link is maintained by the Viz Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and details all of their events and fundraising activities.

“Athletics” is the link to the athletic department. There is a link to the sports calendar and contact information for athletic director, Mr. Gerycz.

“Teacher Sites” is the area that features direct links to the individual pages created by the teachers.

“Teams” has pages for each of the academic teams

The Superstudents is an area highlighting the best of Visintainer’s students. Eventually, the photos of students will be added to the page. Explore and enjoy.

Special thanks to Mrs. Zielaskiewicz and Ms. Fleming for updating the Viz website.

Homework Requests

Visintainer Middle School wants students who are absent to make up the work that they missed. There are some basic guidelines that parents/families should be aware of in terms of getting the work.

Some parents call the day that a student is absent. If a child is too sick to come to school, they can wait until the next day to get the work. Students have as many days as they were absent to make up the work they missed. When parents request work for a one day absence, the teachers have to gather the work and send it to the office for a student that is returning the next day.

We would ask that parents give the staff 24 hours to gather the materials and send them to the office.
Project Power

The middle school years are often filled with projects. Whether it’s for science, history, or English, you can help your child’s next project be successful by sharing these suggestions.

Follow instructions.
Be sure your child finds out what form the project is supposed to take. Is it an oral report, an essay, or a 3-D model? Does he need a special folder? Should the project be typed? (This information may be on a handout provided by the teacher.) Remind your middle grader that no matter how well researched and thought out his project is, failing to follow directions will affect his overall grade.

Do thorough research.
Where will your child find the information she needs? The library is a great place to start. Books, magazines, newspapers, and the Internet are all valuable sources. She may even want to interview a local expert on the topic. Suggest that she use a variety of sources to ensure that her research is well rounded.

Learn from mistakes.
Many students think learning stops once the project is finished. Encourage your middle grader to evaluate his performance after it has been graded. Did he do enough research? Did he allow adequate time to complete each step? Thinking about these questions can help him do better on future projects.

Respectful reminders
When your middle grader is rude, comment on her behavior immediately and provide clear consequences. Example: “You can choose to speak nicely, or lose phone privileges tonight.” Ignoring disrespectful remarks may send kids the message that rudeness is acceptable.

Discussing job loss
Losing a job affects everyone. If it happens in your family, let your children know what’s going on. But keep in mind that too much information can cause them to worry. Spare them the details so they can focus on school.

You’ve got mail!
Want to boost your middle grader’s self-confidence? Mail him a thank-you card telling him how proud you are to be his parent. List all the things you want for him in the future. The note will remind him of your love—without embarrassing him.

Family Time Capsule
Traditions, such as reunions, special meals, and family vacations, can help parents and kids stay connected and strengthen their bonds. Try this new tradition with your family: creating an annual time capsule. Photograph each family member on the same day of the year. Have everyone write down their thoughts, describe the day’s activities, or write about an exciting upcoming event. Seal the pictures and writing together in an envelope, and tuck it away in a safe place. One year later on the same day, open the time capsule and talk about how much has changed or stayed the same.

The future is now

Q: My daughter wants to attend college, but she says she isn’t worried because it’s “years away.” Is she right not to be concerned?
A: Even middle graders should do things to prepare for college. The skills your daughter develops now will be the ones she relies on to earn good grades—in college and high school. In order to be successful, she needs to start developing good study habits now.

Besides grades, colleges also look for strong leadership and social skills. Encourage your child to get involved in extracurricular activities and community programs that focus on personal growth. Another part of success in school comes from self-discipline. Let her know that doing chores without being reminded, waking up and getting ready for school on her own, and completing homework on time are all ways she can develop self-discipline.
The first grading period officially ends on Tuesday, October 21st. On Wednesday, October 22nd, it will be the second quarter. It is a little odd that it is in the middle of a week, but the staff will make sure kids transition to their new quarter classes.

As the weather will, inevitably, turn colder, it reminds me that kids should leave a sweater or sweatshirt in their lockers that they can put on in the event they are cold. Given the fact that our winters can be brutal, it is proactive for students to dress in layers. Students are not permitted to wear coats around the building.

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 August 18th featured 8th grader, Sophia Parente, 7th grader, Kristen Crane, and 6th grader Molly Wood honored as the students of the week. The week of August 25th had Taylor Miklos (6th), Kortney Feckley (7th) and Mitchell Demetriu (8th) recognized. Eighth grader Kathy Cosgriff, 7th grader Tyler Skiba, and 6th grader Angie Case were honored for the week of September 1st. The second week of September featured Zachary Must (6th), Adian Diaz (7th), and Sadie Koerper (8th) chosen. Nick Vadini (6th), Ryan Craska (7th), and Matthew Dietrich were chosen for the week of September 15th. Fran Tomaro (8th), Alex Woods (7th), and Taylor Majstorvich (6th) were honored for the last full week of the month.

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for Wednesday, October 29th from 4:45-7:45 pm and Monday, November 3rd from 4:45-7:45 pm. More information will follow, but if you can plan ahead that would be great. This is 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.