

Save  
The  
Date

6th Annual Casual  
**Black & White**

Fundraiser for the BYC  
Sunday, September 10  
5:30 - 8:30pm

Roost at the Chief Golf Course  
Complete details by June 1  
at [bellaireyouthcenter.com](http://bellaireyouthcenter.com)



## An Exciting Yoga Program Meet Daryl Allison-Bush, our Yoga Instructor!

Our students are most fortunate to have a choice to participate in beginner yoga sessions. Daryl Allison-Busch is a warm and caring individual, a retired Mancelona teacher, besides a certified yoga teacher. BYC is excited to be able to give our students, a positive, quiet time together, learning how to do kid-friendly poses, and tricks to ground themselves with mediation control, even for the classroom. We want our BYC students to fall in love with yoga and incorporate it into their lifestyle for the great physical, mental and emotional benefits it has to offer.

When we asked, "Why should children do yoga?" and Why is it good to offer in BYC? she explains that:

- Yoga helps our students learn how to calm down and focus
- Yoga promotes self-discipline
- Yoga exercises their body and helps physical coordination
- Yoga helps train their right/left brain coordination
- Yoga helps our students become aware of themselves from the inside both physically and emotionally
- Yoga increases their self-confidence
- Yoga is just plain fun to do in BYC!

We are so very fortunate to have Daryl instruct with teach and a BYC volunteer to assist during the yoga classes from 3:05-3:45pm during BYC elementary sessions.



### Mission Statement

The mission of the Bellaire Youth Center is to provide a safe, fun and nurturing environment where youth meet to relax, learn, share and be themselves in a supervised setting with dedicated volunteers and their peers.



## BYC Elementary Program

# Meet our new BYC Assistant

BYC is excited to announce they added an Assistant to the Director, Brittany Shaffer, for the Tuesday elementary sessions. She comes to us via Pennsylvania, where she was raised. Brittany loves raising her family in Bellaire, where she has been glad to call it home for the past 5 years. Married for 12 years, she is a mom of 2 beautiful girls ages, 7 and 5 who attend our BYC program! Brittany enjoys being crafty, sewing, cooking, and spending time with friends. She loves skiing and sledding during our long winters, plus enjoys a nice boat ride during our lovely summers.

Brittany expressed, "Working with the BYC has been a great way to get to know what our community is capable of, and I get to work with some great ladies. Our volunteers are some of the best! What a privilege it has been to work with the kids in Bellaire, and getting to know them personally and having the opportunity to teach them a little bit each week. I am honored to be part of it all".

## What is the difference between the Bellaire Youth Center (BYC) and the programs initiated by Bellaire Youth Initiative (BYI)?

**Bellaire Youth Center** is a K-5 elementary after school program that meets Tuesdays from 3-5pm at the John Rogers Elementary School. It includes free fun choices, along with hands-on learning activities for all Bellaire community youth.

**For more information, contact BYC director Debbie Goldenberg at 231-676-2393.**

**The Bellaire Youth Initiative** includes individual activities offered to the middle and high school students after school. Registration is required for all BYI programs.

**For BYI information and forms, call the Bellaire High School at 231-533-8015**

# What Do You Like Best in BYC?



Get to go on tablets & play Wii and foosball - Damon



I like to do photography & take pictures of people - Abby



Having fun doing all the things that Mrs. Debbie lets us do like making bracelets - Juniper



I like air hockey & Play-doh - Grayson



Go outside & play Candy Land - (center) Jeremiah



I like Star Wars Legos, they are epic, awesome & cool - (left) Ethan



I like how everyone gets together to do stations. I love doing all the crafts - Carys



I make mountains with Play-doh - Keegan



I love free choice. I like everything! - Brady



When we went on a field trip & played golf - Lillian



I like to dress up - Abby

# Bellaire Youth Center K-5 Students: Travel Around the World



Our BYC students had the opportunity this school year to visit and learn about countries around our world. Each student received their very own passport. We traveled north to Canada learning about 100+ maple tree varieties, making an autumn collage, eating maple leaf-shaped cookies and fish, and discussing hockey. We flew over to Europe, visiting Germany, singing a German song together and rolling out dough to make pretzels! Next we visited England, enjoying small PBJ “tea” sandwiches and a “spot of tea”... as we built castles and made puppets of the Queen and her knights, which was fun. Bonjour from France! We enjoyed cheeses with delicious croissants, counting in French, conversing with each other, play acting and having a fashion show! Spain delivered a fun-filled time during Mardi Gras. Making masks, wearing necklaces, using our instruments, we paraded “loudly” through the school halls! Italy, our last stop in Europe brought pasta, mosaics and building “leaning” towers. Traveling to Africa, we learned the oldest game ever known, Mancala. China was fun as we ate noodles with chopsticks, painted a rooster with a fork and fanned it dry. In Australia, students discovered many different animals and experienced blowing a didgeridoo! While visiting Mexico during Cinco de Mayo, we created decorations and enjoyed beef taquitos.

## Celebration of Holidays and Seasons

During Halloween, we loved painting pumpkins, eating mummified hot dogs, ghostly cheese sticks, spider cookies and witch hats! Then off on the blue bus as we enjoyed the last group round forever of miniature golf at Papa K's. All smiled as we left, knowing it was to be torn down, but glad we got to play!





In November we learned that the Pilgrims came from England, and where they lived for a short period in the Netherlands, we gobbled down hot turkey, mashed potatoes and specially made turkey cupcakes while celebrating Thanksgiving. During our African continent visit, we learned about the African American holiday of Kwanzaa and why they light different colored candles for the many beliefs and values they share with their families.



Celebrating the Festival of Chanukah, we ate latkes and applesauce and reading a story with the same title. On the same day, we consumed Christmas cookies and sang combined holiday songs before a surprise visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. They came with candy canes and jingle bells for all. Each child walked away with a big smile from a personal visit with Santa. January brought decorating our classrooms as a winter wonderland. Snowflakes were cut out, we played pin the nose on the snowman, ate their nose, a carrot, and we enjoyed a funny game using a die, rolling numbers to design a unique, or shall we say original, snowman!

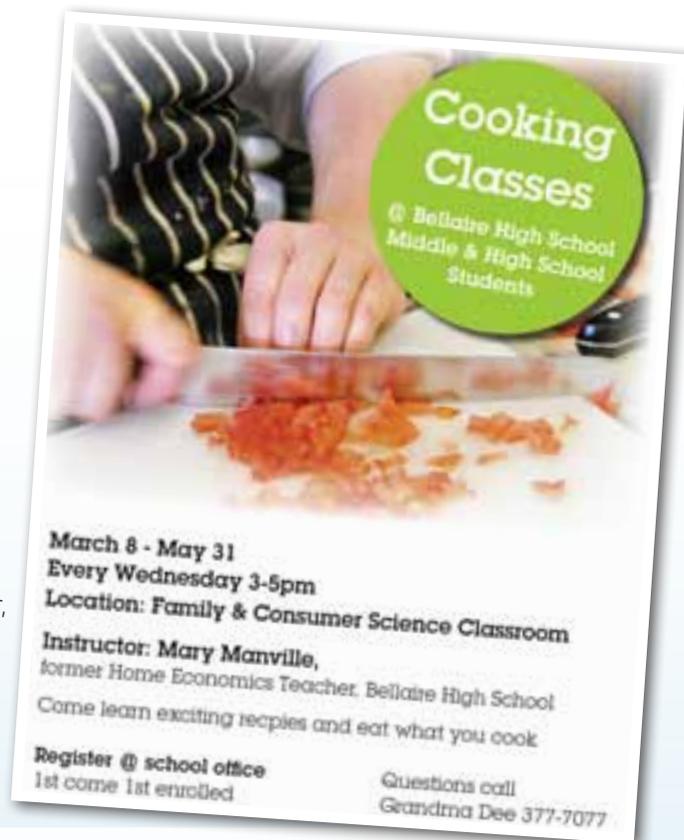
Valentine's Day was full of kindness, respect and giving. We created our own heart cards, while making heart cookies from scratch and decorating them it was fantastic!

Our BYC students went on a field trip to go bowling at the new Bellaire Lanes and Games. It was a strike one and two! Winter included outdoor and indoor activities, while Springtime brought flowers, cherry blossoms and more during our two hour sessions! The following are photos from some of our activities offered: **Yoga, Photography, Homework, Music, Tablets, Foosball, Air Hockey, Library time and Karaoke !**



# Bellaire Youth Initiative Middle and High School Cooking Classes

Students have enjoyed learning about cooking with exciting recipes that they prepare together in the Family & Consumer Science classroom while getting to eat what they cook! This class will be continued in the next school year! Mary Manville, our BYI instructor, comes to us as the Bellaire retired Home Economics teacher. The classes are free. Registration forms are available in the Bellaire High School and Middle School offices.



## Bellaire Youth Initiative Sponsors: Robotics



The new Robotics program for the middle school and high school students is now offered to students living in the Bellaire School District, on behalf of the Bellaire Youth Initiative through grants and donations. With 30+ students actively participating in the middle school robotics, they are designing a robotics program with their tablets or computers, and assembling Mindstorm EV3 robots to perform complex tasks, such as: shooting

target and traveling through obstacle courses while knocking over objects! Their first robot model is called The Track3r, is controlled from a remote device or a Bluetooth connection from a smart phone. Our students will continue to step up and excel in programming and engineering their robots as challenges become more difficult.

Two of the Bellaire high school teams prepared for contests against area schools in the VEX Robotics Completion game, Starstruck. The Starstruck objective was to score as many points is possible by moving objects with their robot over a fence in the arena. Stars and cubes are some of the objects they moved around. As each team engineered a robot, there were be various motors, switches, and other structural components used. Once the robot was engineered and assembled by each team, the robots could score points only by having pre-programed instructions from their computer design. This was an extremely challenging task, but our Bellaire students worked diligently for competition.

# Local ice rink officially opens for the season

BY LINDA GALLAGHER  
Associate Editor

**BELLAIRE** — The Bellaire Youth Center's Youth Initiative officially opened its ice skating rink to the public last Friday evening with a special open house.

Speaking about the Richard Park rink, which is officially in its second season, coordinator Gary Lockwood said, "We tried, but the weather gods were against us last year with the mild winter. We were only able to keep the rink open a total of six days."

This year, the weather has been much better for creating ice, Lockwood noted.

"We started the rink in January, and then had to wait until cold weather returned after a two-week break at the end of January. But it finally got cold again, and the rink was open and ready for business a week ago."

Added to the rink this year is a warming tent with heaters and benches that will be open whenever Youth Initiative volunteers are present.

"It makes a great place for parents and caretakers to sit and keep an eye on the kids while they skate," Lockwood said. "It will definitely be open on Friday and Saturday evenings until the end of the season."



While a group of area youngsters enjoyed a quick hockey game on the Bellaire Youth Initiative's ice rink last Friday at Richard Park in downtown Bellaire, a number of Bellaire Youth Center board members and Youth Initiative volunteers gathered for a photo while handing out hot cocoa and cookies during an open house held at the ice rink.

Photo by Linda Gallagher

Last Friday evening, skaters not only found the rink open, but cookies and hot cocoa waiting for them as well.

"On Friday and Saturday nights, we'll have lights on the rink and music for skaters to skate by from 5-8 p.m., but the ice rink is available for use anytime during regular park hours," he added.

Despite receiving donations from the Michigan Amateur Youth Hockey Association, the group is currently in search of more donations of ice skates, particularly figure skates, as well as cash to purchase ice skating equipment.

"Everything we have so far has

been donated by a number of area businesses as well as private individuals, and we do have a limited number of skates for youngsters to use — as well as walkers for those just learning how to skate — but we're in need of a lot more to meet the demand we hope we get," said Lockwood.

The skating rink was an idea of Lockwood's after he returned to the north a few years ago.

"My wife and I immediately noticed that there wasn't any public skating rinks up here for the kids to use, and that was a staple of our life as children ourselves for many years downtown," he said.

"We've had a lot of help from a lot of people to make this happen, and we couldn't have done it without the support of the Youth Center's board of directors, and the assistance and cooperation of the Village of Bellaire as well as my parents, Brian Lane," the Bellaire resident added.

Ice skaters are also being encouraged to take advantage of coupons being offered to skaters by Moka, a popular Bellaire eatery.

"Next year, we're going to add a smaller family rink to accommodate the little ones just learning how to skate," Lockwood said. "We've got a lot of ideas for next year."

But for now, the group of volunteers is just grateful for everyone's assistance, including that of Mother Nature.

For more information on the Bellaire Youth Initiative's ice rink, or to make a donation, contact Gary Lockwood at 214-377-2912 or on his cell phone at 734-392-4663.



## After-School Biking & Snowshoeing

Dave Lewandowski, our Bellaire school's counselor, lead two new programs: bicycling and snowshoeing for middle and high school students at Glacier Hills Pathway and Natural Area Trailhead. In November, they biked twice on Tuesdays with 6 students and 3 volunteers including Patrick Boyd from Paddles and Pedals. Patrick's son, Liam, also an avid mountain biker, helped our students as well! BYI offered bike rentals with Patrick's help and snacks.

Students began on the easier beginner trails as many had not biked there before. We continued on Tuesdays again beginning in April as weather permitted. The after-school snowshoeing group, (taking place also on Tuesdays), began February 7th and we were able to snowshoe twice with 5 to 6 students. We also hiked as well as when the weather made trails difficult to navigate. Thanks so much to Ron Lynch and your volunteer Mr. DeLange! We had loads of fun as this was a first snowshoe for most of our group! Thanks again, Bellaire Youth Center for supporting this with rentals, volunteers and snacks! We loved it! Spring time will continue biking and hiking.

**Spring time will continue biking and hiking.**

# BYI Past – Present – Future

In 2008 a small group of Pastors and other Community Leaders in Bellaire had a vision. They wanted to provide a place for students to go after school where they could have fun, do homework and be mentored. That group was called the Bellaire Youth Initiative or BYI. Throughout the years the BYI Board has changed but the vision has remained the same: "To provide a safe, fun and nurturing environment where youth meet to relax, learn, share and be themselves in a supervised setting with dedicated volunteers and their peers". Following the original vision the Bellaire Youth Center became one of the initiatives started by the BYI. It continues to meet in the John Rodgers Elementary School and a positive relationship has been formed with the Bellaire Public Schools. Two years ago the BYI Board met and developed a "Wish List" of other opportunities the BYI could offer students in Bellaire.

To date the following programs are now in full swing:

- The Bellaire Youth Center
- A Biking/Hiking/Snowshoeing Program
- A Cooking Class in the Middle School
- A Community Choir for Middle School that meets once a week

It should also be noted that BYI assisted in establishing the Bellaire Public School Robotics class in 2015 and also assisted in sponsoring a Community Ice Rink established in 2015. This summer the BYI will sponsor a Golf Club in partnership with Shanty Creek and next winter a Ski Club. Through the generous contributions of community members all equipment has been donated for Biking, Golf and Skiing. In the Fall, through additional grants, the BYI will offer the following new programs as well as the those mentioned above: Modern Dance, Yoga, Art, Sewing, Chess and Debate. Each Initiative has been supported by the community and the Bellaire Public Schools through their donations of space. We are so grateful to everyone that has shared in the vision of offering students enrichment activities. In addition to our Enrichment Programs we continue to dream of providing an additional space or "Drop In Center" for High School students and once again "Provide a safe, fun and nurturing environment where youth meet to relax, learn, share and be themselves in a supervised setting with dedicated volunteers and their peers"!

Mary Ann Waara, Education Committee Chair

Education Committee Members are: Deb Cannella, Keelie LeCeureux, Dee Lynch, Sue Mills and Lyn Petty

## Bellaire Youth Initiative

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### Newsletter Committee

Dee Lynch - Chair

Debbie Goldenberg

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