

Bayless Junior High School
Good News Report
April 2008

Here are just some of the good things that have been occurring at the Junior High that are news worthy:

***Bayless Junior High School Receives a Site Visit for
National School of Character Consideration***

On March 31st, Dr. Linda Morris and Ms Barbara Luther, Site Evaluators for NSOC, visited BJHS and met with teachers, past and present students and parents and questioned them regarding the school character education programs.

CEP, the nation's leading advocate for quality character education initiatives, chose 25 finalists from 149 applicants from across the United States. CEP is conducting site visits to all finalists throughout the end of April. BJHS's evaluators, Dr. Morris and Ms. Luther, will meet with other members of CEP's Blue Ribbon Panel and will then select 10 winners in late May.

"Being chosen as a finalist in the National Schools of Character competition is a remarkable achievement," CEP Executive Director Joe Mazzola said. "I applaud each school and district's commitment to positive youth development."

Finalists have undergone a rigorous application process that demonstrates their work with the ethical, social, and academic growth of their students through effective character education.

Should BJHS be selected as a National School of Character, it will receive the award, national recognition, and a grant of \$20,000 at CEP's 15th National Forum on Character Education, *Character is Destiny*, to be held October 2008 in Arlington, Virginia. Winners use their grants to serve as national leaders and models for other schools and districts seeking to improve their character education efforts.

BJHS Students will participate in Kids Walking 4 Kids Campaign

On April 22nd, over 50 BJHS students will walk to help raise money and awareness for communities who are attempting to heal adolescent depression and suicide. This campaign is being sponsored by Chad's Coalition. So far, BJHS students have raised over \$500 in donations for "Kids walking for Kids".

"Reading is Hot!"



BJHS students performing at the Reading Is Hot Pep Assembly earlier this semester.

Again this school year the Junior High students are participating in a reading incentive program called *Reading is HOT!* The goal of this program is to encourage students to read entire fiction books for pleasure. This past fall the 7th and 8th graders were challenged to read 1,500 books by the month of May, 250 more than last year's goal that was met and an additional 250 more than the previous year's goal which was also met. As of April 7th, the junior high students have read over 900 books! Inspired by a recent pep assembly, our students were encouraged to read 600 additional books so that we can again achieve our goal. Students and teachers performed cheers and raps to encourage one another to read.