

## **Aligning Curriculum in the Thornapple Kellogg Schools**

While headline news in the area of education regularly highlights economic challenges, the students and staff of Thornapple Kellogg have remained steadfast in their commitment to learning. While legislators continue to grapple over how to manage an ever-decreasing pool of resources, achievement scores at TK continue to rise. Changes in budgets, curriculum, and state and federal mandates are common in our business, but the face of education will always be our students. As long as there are students, there will be people who care about them... and so it is in the community of Thornapple Kellogg where kids come first.

From a district perspective, our students improved overall on the state assessments (MEAP for students in grades 3-9, and MME for our 11<sup>th</sup> graders), and all of our schools once again earned a letter grade of A from the Michigan Department of Education. As with each year, there were numerous student successes in areas such as Music/Art, Odyssey of the Mind, Science Olympiad, and throughout classrooms in our K-12 buildings. We remain committed to personalizing our students' education with programs designed to address deficiencies and to encourage personal growth.

With each new school year there are unique challenges, and 2010-2011 will be no exception. Beyond the uncertainties of our economy, the state is transitioning to a curriculum that is not entirely different than what we currently practice, but is in line with most every other state in the union. This is new territory for everyone in education, but it is also very exciting to move in a direction that makes better sense for our students. We look forward to this newest challenge, to serving our community, and to providing the best education possible for all of our students.