



January 2014

DASD News

2013-14

Engaging, challenging,
and inspiring all students to pursue their full potential.

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WES "A Time for Giving" contest winners: (L-R): Kindergarten, Lucas Tanner; 1st gr, Jacob Tutaj; 2nd gr, Emmy Rauls; 3rd gr, Alaina Lopez; 4th gr, Blake Edge. Students wrote letters explaining what he/she would do with \$25 to make the holiday season better for an individual or group.

School board hears results of facility study

On January 13, Steve Kieckhafer from Plunkett-Raysich (PRA) presented to members of the Board of Education the results of a district-wide facilities study.

For each building, their results and recommendations included an analysis of:

- existing facilities (architectural; safety and security; athletics; HVAC; and plumbing, fire protection, and electrical systems);
- educational space (based on actual, target and maximum capacity formulas); and
- traffic flow and parking availability

PRA staff made several recommendations based on a priority system ranging from upgrading when the schedule permits, to making changes in the near future due to safety, code compliance or security.

The full report is available on the DASD website: [PRA Facilities Study Report](#).

This facility study process began in October when the school board hired Plunkett-Raysich (PRA) to conduct the comprehensive review of DASD facilities. They also

Drug Prevention Awareness Presentation for Parents



Information about the use of marijuana, alcohol, heroin, and prescription medications



Thursday, January 30, 6:00 pm
DAHS Little Theater

Sponsored by DeForest Area School District and DeForest Police Department

Detective Sergeant Robert Berg will be presenting information on the progression of substance abuse. A representative from Safe Communities Madison – Dane County will present on an online resource for families and friends of people battling drug addiction.

The presentation will cover these topics:

- Marijuana
- Alcohol
- Heroin
- Prescription Medications
- Parent Addiction Network of Dane County

These presentations are open to the public; and are designed for adults, not children under 18.

More information: www.deforest.k12.wi.us/district/dasd-news

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Facilities study

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requested administrative staff to gather facts and data on current demographics.

On December 9, PRA presented to the board the process used to study the infrastructure and educational spaces of DASD. In



looking at the infrastructure, PRA met with school officials who directly work with buildings and grounds. In addition to the general condition of roofing, electrical, and structural elements, PRA also examined traffic flow and the general site of each school building. In looking at the educational spaces, PRA worked with principals to obtain feedback from school staff about the needs and current uses of space.

In addition, PRA communicated with leadership staff to learn more about the vision for instruction moving forward, specifically personalizing learning and creating flexible learning spaces that work well with technology initiatives. authorized and developing a process
What's next?

In February administrative staff will provide informational updates on enrollment and potential growth areas, as well as a summary of the census currently underway. Board members will use the facilities study and other information, as well as their guiding principles, in their short- and long-range decision making.

On February 20 board members will also be seeking input from internal and external stakeholders about their vision for education in the district. The February 20 event is a follow-up to the 2009 Framework for Our Future 2.0 conference hosted by the district. See page 3 for more information. ■

NOTE: Regular updates on discussions and activities about district facilities are posted on the district website.

DASD refinances debt to save \$1.18M

On December 9, the Board of Education passed a resolution to allow for refinancing of a portion of the district's current debt. On January 13, the Board of Education passed a second resolution refinancing an additional portion of district debt. In total, the two refinancing resolutions of \$5,890,000 are anticipated to save approximately \$1.18 million.

The school board approved selling \$5,890,000 in General Obligation Refunding Bonds Series 2014B to BMO Capital Markets at a rate of .6226% (nine vendors submitted bids).

"Much like refinancing a home mortgage, by refinancing the bonds, we have lowered those payments — those obligations of the district," said Diane Pertzborn, Director of Business & Auxiliary Services. "As a result, this represents a significant savings on interest payments - \$1.18 million reduction in the debt portion of the tax levy between now and 2020."

Through sound fiscal management and conservative budgeting, the district has maintained an AA+ rating (per Standard & Poor's Ratings Services) allowing for refinancing at outstanding rates. Further, the district maintains a sound fund balance in order to eliminate borrowing and interest costs associated with borrowing.

"As the district looks to the future needs of both the infrastructure and educational spaces, this solid fiscal positioning will be a great benefit to the community," said District Administrator Dr. Susan Borden. ■

Spring school board election

Three seats are open for the **April 1** DeForest Area School Board election. Running for these positions are:

Town of Burke
Dan Choi (I)

**Town of Windsor
(2 seats open)**
Sue Paulson (I)
James Pertzborn
Terri Treinen

Framework for Our Future 2.5

As the DASD Board of Education approaches the five-year anniversary of the 2009 Framework for Our Future conference, they wish to continue this conversation with stakeholders.

Board members extend an invitation to the DASD community to participate in the Monitoring Progress event on February 20, 2014. Please see the invitation on page 3 for more information.

Individuals who are interested in attending should contact Ann Stettbacher at astettbacher@deforestschoools.org by **Wednesday, February 5.**



Superintendent's
BLOG

News, information, and educational insights from District Administrator, Dr. Susan Borden.

Check out Dr. Borden's new blog! In her first post, Dr. Borden reflects on a message from Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, keynote speaker for the opening session of the state education conference.

Framework for Our Future 2.5

Monitoring Progress: A Report to our Stakeholders

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2014

5:30-6:00 pm Arrival and Refreshments

6:00-9:00 pm Program

DeForest Area Middle School
404 Yorktown Road, DeForest

DEFOREST AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

The DeForest Area School District has a long-standing reputation as an excellent school system – a reputation we are committed to maintaining. To achieve excellence in today's environment, we must constantly challenge ourselves to improve our programs for every student. Maintaining that excellence demands we think about, plan for, and anticipate the future.

The Board of Education for the DeForest Area School District began a process in 1999 to plan for the future. Through a series of events, the school district has been seeking the community's input to develop a common understanding about the future of the school district. [An historical summary of this process since 1999 is available on the DASD website at: www.deforest.k12.wi.us/district/mission-vision.cfm]

The most recent future search conference was hosted by the school district in 2009. "Framework for Our Future 2.0: Seeking Our New Horizon" was attended by nearly 120 community leaders representing parents, students, teachers, support staff, business, government, senior citizens, civic/social organizations and service providers who all had a stake in and an interest in the school district.

Participants met for 16 hours over three consecutive days to share conversation, perspectives, and vision for the DeForest Area School District's future. Participants helped to develop a vision that addressed the evolving needs of our students and the community, insured community support and involvement, and demonstrated institutional accountability and responsibility.

The information generated at the 2009 conference allowed the school district to continue developing systems and processes, and aligning programs that help achieve the community's vision. As we approach the five-year anniversary of the 2009 event, the DASD Board of Education wishes to continue this conversation with stakeholders.

**Individuals interested in attending this upcoming event may contact
Ann Stettbacher at 842-6582 or astettbacher@deforestschoools.org
by **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5****

(Please note that there is a maximum number of participants that can participate due to space.)

DASD featured in Wisconsin E-newsletter

DeForest Area School District was recently featured in the January issue of the **FarmLogix** newsletter for using local food in an innovative and creative way. In October foodservice production supervisor Tammy Bran wanted to bring attention to Farm to School month while also boosting breakfast participation. So, Tammy ordered some local diced apple/blueberry mix for each school and organized materials for them to serve parfaits at breakfasts each week that month. It was well received and some schools continued to serve the parfaits at breakfasts.

Farmlogix, a company that connects local farms to schools, and other purchasing and/or distributing entities, heard about this and contacted Tammy for an interview. As a result, the interview was used to feature the DeForest School District in a newsletter giving ideas to other Wisconsin schools for improving their local food program.

Story featured in FarmLogix newsletter, January 2014:



Cafeterias in DeForest have combined FarmLogix' frozen local fruit blends with yogurt to offer local parfaits at breakfast. At most schools, students were permitted to put together their own parfait and loved this unique breakfast choice. Read more about DeForest's efforts in the interview below.

FarmLogix: What did you include in your parfaits?

DeForest: We had our regular yogurt and used the local apple/blueberry mix at some schools and the local apple/blueberry/cranberry mix at other schools. Both worked well for this item.

FarmLogix: What did students think of these yogurt parfaits?

DeForest: We got a good response from our students - they loved putting the parfaits together themselves of course. We also offered the fruit blend by itself as an option.

FarmLogix: Was preparation more time consuming for staff?

DeForest: It was obviously more difficult than serving cereal and a juice - we anticipated this though and actually scheduled to serve these parfaits on days where lunch preparation required less labor, so our staff wouldn't fall behind. Just a little extra planning.

FarmLogix: Do you meet the USDA regulations by serving this meal?

DeForest: Yes - we had them use a half cup of fruit.

FarmLogix: A lot of schools feature local on just the lunch menu. Why did you think it was important to feature local items at breakfast?

DeForest: Well we already have things at lunch and it just occurred to me that this fits at breakfast too - I wanted to increase breakfast participation and thought this was a good way to draw some focus to breakfast. We publicized it on our website, signs in our cafeterias and in our newsletter, and we got some good feedback! ■

School and village partnership to grow edible park in DeForest

Project will be featured on WKOW27's Wake Up Wisconsin.

American Transmission Co. (ATC) awarded the Village of DeForest with a \$5,000 grant as part of their Tree Planting Program that encourages communities to grow trees and vegetation away from electrical transmission lines. The grant will be split between two parks. Part of the funds will be used to enhance Liberty Land Park in DeForest with five pear and fifteen apple trees, which will be planted adjacent to the existing community garden site. Remaining funds will be used to plant trees in the new Marvin and Marie Schweer's Dog Park.



This project will be a partnership between the Village of DeForest Parks Department and the DeForest Area High School agriculture classes and Future Farmers of America (FFA) club. The agriculture classes and FFA will use the edible park as a hands-on educational tool as their students will do the bulk of the pruning, watering and harvesting.

Once the trees start producing, the fruit will be used in the school's lunch program, Norski Nibbles (a free summer lunch program), and at the local food pantry. Park users are encouraged to explore and even sample the fruit from the edible park!

Members of the community are invited to Liberty Land Park on **Thursday, January 30, 2014 at 4:30 pm** where the ATC will present the grant award to Village officials and high school faculty. WKOW27 is planning to be on hand for interviews for an upcoming story on their Wake Up Wisconsin program. ■

School Spotlight



Eagle Point 4th grade Peer Mediators completed training and took their “pledge” on January 21. Students voluntarily spent recesses training with school counselor Linda Bergh and will help other students find solutions to problems during portions of their future recess time. According to principal Ann Schoenberger, “These children are leaders who will help build assets in other children, as well as their own.” ■

Congratulations to our DAHS fall athletic teams

- **Girls Tennis:** 2nd Place Badger North
- **Girls Cross Country:** 3rd Place Badger North
- **Boys Cross Country:** 3rd Place Badger North (Kyle Cass & Ryan Spahn, State Qualifiers)
- **Football:** 2nd Place Badger North; 5-1 Conference Record; 9-2 Overall; WIAA Playoff Qualifier Level 2 (Brock Allen 1st Team All-State Inside Linebacker)
- **Boys Soccer:** 4th Place Badger North; 2-3 Conference Record; 12-9 Overall
- **Volleyball:** 2nd Place Badger North; WIAA Regional Champions
- **Girls Swimming:** Badger North Conference Champions; WIAA Sectional Champions; WIAA Division 2 State Runner-up ■



2013 Girls Swim Team - WIAA Division 2 State Runner-up

Students excel at geography and spelling

Congratulations to **Kaitlin Durnen**, 7th grader at DeForest Area Middle School, who will participate in the annual regional spelling bee on February 15 in Stoughton.

Kaitlin won the district spelling bee after nine rounds, which advances her to compete with other students in the more challenging regional competition. Taking second place was 7th grade student **Cole Bayer**, who will serve as the alternate. Forty 5th through 8th grade students participated in the district competition held on January 20 at the middle school.



For the second year, **Zach Alff**, son of Martha and Tom Alff, moved one step closer to a \$25,000 scholarship after winning the middle school's 22nd Annual National Geographic Society's Geography Bee. Zach won the bee on January 15 at the school-level competition. **Sam Fisher**, son of David and Erin Fisher was runner-up.

Zach will take a written examination to determine if he is eligible to compete in the state Geography Bee in April.

Other students who won their classroom competition and advanced to the final school round after receiving top scores on a written test were: Jacob Kerl, Eliot Pickhardt, Henry Rohde, Mason Sonsalla, Shane Vandommelen, Adam Horton, Joseph Schadf, and Adrianna Duffrin. ■



Artwork by
Left: Owen Liegel, YES first grade
Above: Trysten Schroeder, MES third grade

Families can learn to write code together

by Kim Bannigan, Learning Information Systems Department Coordinator

On December 9th, DASD celebrated Code Week with lots of activities that either extended or started student coding skills. The date, selected for Admiral Grace Hopper Murray's birthday, brought students together throughout the country to code, create, and share--22,943,621 of us!

In DeForest, we'd like to extend that celebration into the rest of the year. We're planning a few more events for students and are working on one for parents and families.



Why learn or practice coding and programming?

It's creative: Programmers consider what could be and bring it to life. With iOS apps like Hopscotch or Scratch, students can create interactive media. Different than playing a game, coding builds things.

It teaches problem-solving: When student create and code, they participate in constant revision.

It's collaborative: The stereotype of a lone programmer surrounded by pizza boxes will eventually go away. Coding requires teamwork and collaboration. Watching our high school students in the lab during Code Week made this obvious. There was plenty of talk and plenty of sharing: "How did you do that?" "Look at this!" "I got it!"

Our recent changes in classroom technology and infrastructure make work like this possible. We're building our technology to meet the needs of the real world and support high levels of learning. We're adding more and more mobile technology, while upgrading infrastructure.

If you'd like to work on coding skills at home, here are three resources:

- This article had 6 free and excellent tools for all levels: [Raise the Next Zuckerberg: 6 Coding Apps for Kids](#).
- If you use an iOS device, try apps like Beebot (for K-1 students) and, Hopscotch (4 and up).
- If you'd like to learn the real thing, all ages are welcome to [Code Academy](#), where one can learn Javascript, Python, and other languages.

Dark winter evenings can be a great time to learn a new skill or create something as a family. ■



American Legion Auxiliary sponsors essay contest

The American Legion Auxiliary is once again sponsoring their annual "Americanism Essay Contest" for students in grades 3-12.

Each year members of the local Olson Grinde Post #348 choose four local winners from those submitted, and send them on to the state level, with another chance to win at the national competition.

The topic this year is "**How can I show my pride in being an American?**"

Participants may download an entry from www.deforestschoools.org >> District >> News/Communication.

Entries are due by March 12, 2014 and can be submitted directly to Kathy Disch, 613 DeForest Street, DeForest, WI 53532.

There are five age categories of entries, each with requirements for the number of words allowed in the essay. In addition to recognition at the local, state and national levels, cash awards are also given. ■

District, police department recognize adult crossing guards



Betty McMillin at the corner of E. Holum Street and Cleveland Street, near Eagle Point Elementary School.

In honor of Wisconsin's annual Adult School Crossing Guard Recognition, District Administrator, Dr. Sue Borden and DeForest Police Chief, Bob Henze visited with school crossing guards on Jan. 14. Borden and Henze thanked them for their service to the school district and community.



Nora Geach serves middle and high school students in the morning at Jefferson and S. Cleveland Streets. **Suzanne Wentland** (pictured at left) does the same in the afternoon.



College Goal Wisconsin

February 23, 2:00 pm

DeForest Area High School

Get free, professional help in completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) — all families looking for college financial assistance need to complete this form. For more information visit www.collegegoalwi.org.



Early Learning Fair

March 6, 12 noon - 7:00 pm

Holum Education Center Gym

For all families with children who will be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2015.



Becoming a Love and Logic Parent

Monday's, Feb 10 - Mar 24

6-8 p.m.; YES Library

Free childcare

For reservations call: 842-6411

February 1	DECA's annual Dad 'n Daughter Dance, 6:00-9:00 pm
February 3-4	DAHS Winter One-Act Performances, 7:00 pm
February 19	Community Blood Drive at DAHS, sponsored by NHS
February 24	DASD Parent-Teacher Conferences, 12:30-7:30 pm
February 24	No School for Students
March 1	FFA Family Fun Night, 6:00 pm
March 1	Badger Conference Solo & Ensemble Festival, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
March 17	Two-hour Early Release for Students
March 31 - April 4	No School, Spring Break

Snow Days 101

Information about how school closing and delay decisions are made.

<http://www.deforest.k12.wi.us/district/school-closings-bus-delays.cfm>

Upcoming events in the Madison area



UW Geology Museum

Storytime - Through March

1215 West Dayton Street, Madison

www.geology.wisc.edu/~museum

Kids in the Rotunda - January 11- February 15

201 State St., Madison

overturecenter.com/community/kids-in-the-rotunda

Monkey Business Institute Improv Comedy Show (All-Ages) Through March

2916 Atwood Avenue, Madison

monkeybusinessinstitute.com

Family Music Time - Through March

702 N. Midvale Blvd., Madison,

www.uwbookstore.com/home.aspx

Twilight Wednesdays at Madison Children's Museum Through March

100 N. Hamilton Street, Madison

madisonchildrensmuseum.org

Zor Shrine Circus - February 14-16

1919 Alliant Energy Center Way, Madison

www.shrinecircusinfo.com

Children's Theater Of Madison Presents: The Giver February 15-23

201 State St., Madison

overturecenter.com/production/the-giver

Children's Theater Of Madison Presents: Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day March 8-16

201 State St, Madison

overturecenter.com/production/alexander-and-the-terrible-horrible-no-good-very-bad-day

Madison Kids Expo - March 15-16

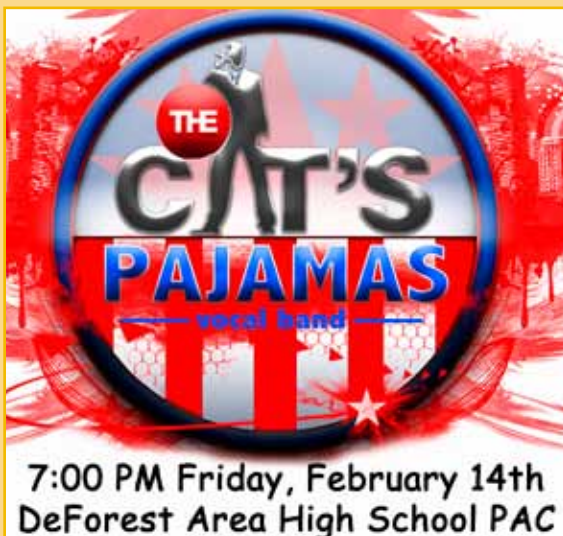
1919 Alliant Energy Center Way, Madison

bravamagazine.com/MadisonKidsExpo.aspx



DeForest Area School District
520 E. Holum Street
DeForest, WI 53532
www.deforestareaschools.org

Mark your calendars for these special musical events . . .



More district events at:
www.deforestschoools.org
District > Calendars



Wisconsin Singers
Friday, April 11, 7:00 pm
DAHS Performing Arts Center



Jazz on the Green
Monday, May 12, 5:00 pm
Lake Windsor Golf Club
Casual club atmosphere with dancing,
food, and fun!



Elmer McLaughlin Memorial Concert
Thursday, May 8
With Special Guest Conductors and
former Band Directors of DASD:
Richard Fellenz (1968-2000)
Mark Sieger (1981-2012)
Nathan Pierce (2006-2009)
David Buehler (2009-2012)

The DeForest Area School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or handicap in employment and its educational programs and activities.