



Uniquely Davis

www.davis.k12.ut.us | March/April 2019

Superintendency message

Blossoms become fruit

Each year in early April, thousands of people flock to our nation's capital to see the cherry blossoms on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., (a park in the heart of the city where national memorials and monuments surround a beautiful reflective lake).



Dr. Logan Toone

The cherry blossom tradition began in 1912, when Tokyo's mayor Yukio Ozaki gifted more than 3,000 Yoshimoto cherry trees to President William Howard Taft. Since then, the cherry blossoms at the National Mall have provided a sense of awe and wonder, a frame of natural beauty on our nation's heritage, and a welcome call to spring.

Spring is a time of new growth and beginnings — a time when the world wakes up to its true potential and prepares for warm summers and fruitful autumns. As students and teachers return from spring break, the pace of work in our schools increases. With learning as a constant goal, teachers and students prepare for exams, performances, competitions and projects highlighting the work they've done throughout the year.

As we consider the work we do in our schools, remember that

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Construction continues at Shoreline Junior High. The project is being funded by the 2015 voter-approved bond.

District increases bond rating

Taxpayers can breathe a sigh of relief knowing savings are in store for them with the Davis School District's increased bond rating from Aa2 to Aa1, the second-highest rating a debt issuer can receive.

The district has received an Aa2 rating each year for the last decade. An improved economy in Davis County and growth of district fund balances has

contributed to their first issuance of an Aa1 rating, said District Business Administrator Craig Carter.

"Even though we are growing in population, we are also growing in fund balance," Carter said. "Now that we are upgraded, we are one step away from a Aaa rating, so we are viewed as a really good investment. Because of the upgrade, we anticipate lower interest on our bonds, which means savings to the taxpayer."

In December of 2009, the Davis School District Board passed a resolution to improve financial reserves and work towards improving the district's bond rating.

"As a board, we've been diligently involved since then to improve our bond rating," Davis School District Board

"Our conservative approach, along with a rating upgrade, will end up saving taxpayers of the county hundreds of thousands of dollars in the future."

— Board President John Robison

President John Robison said. "Secondly, the district

only bonds for what we need at the time. Our conservative approach, along with a rating upgrade, will end up saving taxpayers of the county hundreds of thousands of dollars in the future."

The district's most recent \$298 million bond was issued in 2015 to fund the construction of Farmington High, Shoreline Junior High, and a new elementary in West Layton. It has also helped finance the remodel of Viewmont High,

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40 top employees receive recognition



From left: Alberto Herraez, Mario Herraez, Kirstin Reed, Kathryn Hansen, Liz Wiser, Tammy Tueller, Sandra Dearden, Kristin Kapp, Edith Rostal, Teri Ewell, Deborah Kroeger, Ashley Davis, Sarah Fluckiger, Jenny York, and Kami Graham.



From left: Marisa Brough, Cami Johnson, Becky Vervloet, Lori Warden, Delia Bayna, Michelle Taylor, Shauna Christensen, Christine Wolf, Larry Smith, Chad King, Kelland Davis, Melody Savage, Linda Vaughn, Brandon Welker and Kara Oliverson.

Congratulations go out to the 40 Best of Davis Award winners.

The Best of Davis Award is the highest recognition given to the top educators and support personnel in the Davis School District.

Awardees were chosen from hundreds of nominations sent in by coworkers, supervisors, parents and students. The nomination, application and endorsements were reviewed and scored by a committee and then the final selections were made. The list of winners includes 15 elementary educators, 15 secondary educators and 10 support personnel.

The awardees are:

Elementary teachers — Ashley Davis, Sunset Elementary; Sandra Dearden, Tolman Elementary; Teri Ewell, Kaysville Elementary; Sarah Fluckiger, Layton Elementary; Kami



From left: Sara Doty, Joni Slater, Susan Christensen, Joan Tuttle, Tricia Martin, Kate Williams, Elin Scott, Shelly Iosefa and Brooke Haag. Not pictured: Carol Nef

Graham, Kay's Creek Elementary; Kathryn Hansen, Adams Elementary; Alberto Herraez, Canyon Creek Elementary; Mario Herraez, Canyon Creek Elementary; Kristin Kapp, Reading Elementary; Deborah Kroeger, Cook Elementary; Kirstin Reed, Knowlton Elementary; Edith Rostal, Mountain View Elementary; Tammy Tueller, Windridge Elementary; Liz Wiser, Bountiful Elementary; Jenny York, Stewart Elementary.

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our influence in the lives of students is like the influence of spring in the life of a tree. We work diligently now to help our students learn – growing blossoms which will someday become fruitful and productive – ready for success in their future careers, families and communities. The Scottish poet Sir Walter Scott once said, “Unless a tree has borne blossoms in spring, you will vainly look for fruit on it in autumn.”

We invite everyone in our community – students, educators, families and community partners – to engage this spring like never before in the development of educational blossoms which will one day become fruit in the lives of our students. This is a great work, and an amazing time of year to do it!

— Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Logan Toone

RATING, From Pg. 1

Woods Cross High, Mountain High, Mueller Park Junior High and a total rebuild of West Bountiful Elementary.

Additionally, the district has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. The district has received the honor for 36 years in a row.

Davis School District

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Students, staff shine in competitions

• **Fairfield Junior High's Science Olympiad** team took first place at the State Science Olympiad Competition for the 24th year in a row.

Other first place awards at this year's competition at the University of Utah include:

Battery Buggy - **Jacob Johnson** and **Joseph Johnson**;
 Crime Busters - **Trienne Merrell** and **Brenna Sullivan**;
 Dynamic Planet - **Jacob Johnson** and **Joseph Johnson**;
 Meteorology - **Jacob Johnson** and **Breanna Mertens**;
 Road Scholar - **Brandon Burton** and **Brenna Sullivan**;
 Thermodynamics - **Brandon Burton** and **Emery Barrus**.

• **Annette Palmer**, a first-grade teacher at Taylor Elementary, has been chosen as the Autism Council of Utah's Educator of the Year. She was honored at the ACU meeting on April 30.

• **Central Davis Junior High** took second in the State Mock Trial.

• **Burton Elementary** will receive the award for being the top Imagine Math school in the State of Utah.

• **Farmington Junior High's Jazz Ensemble** has been named the winner of DownBeat magazine's Large Ensemble Student Award.

• Four Davis students are State Champions of the Utah History Day. The students will compete in the National History Day competition in Washington, D.C., June 9-13. The students and their placement are:

Christian Morris, Morgan Elementary - Youth Individual Performance, Piracy and the United States (Youth Division does not compete nationally); **Kimball Morris**, Morris Homeschool - Junior Individual Performance, The Longest Road; **Maggie Call**, South Davis Junior High - Senior Individual Performance, How I spent my Summer Vacation: Triumph and Tragedy at Gettysburg and the Women's History Prize; **Maddie Morris**, Fairfield Junior



Annette Palmer, second from right.

High - Senior Individual Performance, The Danish Solution.

• **Northridge High's Air Force JROTC Unit UT-931** received the Distinguished Unit Award. They were one of only three Utah programs to receive unit recognition. It was the fourth year in a row they have been recognized.

• **Katelyn Beers**, Parkside Elementary, was selected as the winner for the state of Utah Bonnie Plants third-grade Cabbage Program contest. She will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

• A few Davis School District students were recognized as top students along the Wasatch Front by the Deseret News Sterling Scholar program. The students and their recognition are as follows:

Gail Miller Community Service Award Winner: **Emily Erekson**, Viewmont High School; Visual Arts Winner: **Pablo Cruz Ayala**, Bountiful High School; Dance runner up: **Karli Ludwig**, Bountiful High School; Mathematics runner up: **Lucy Ward**, Bountiful High School; Speech/Theater Arts/Forensics runner up: **Rachel LeMmon**, Bountiful High School

• **Rosalind Van Vleet** from Fairfield Junior High received a Huntsman Education Junior High Teacher award.

• The Northern Utah Multi-Region Battle of the Bands showcased bands from area high schools. **The Upside Band** from Bountiful placed first, the **Rockees** from Woods Cross placed second, and **The Schwacksters** from Bountiful placed third and received the fan favorite award. The three bands competed at the Utah State Battle of the Bands competition on April 27.

• **Wasatch Elementary** was honored as a Change Maker by United Way.



Rosalind Van Vleet, right.

TOP, From Pg. 1

Secondary teachers — Delia Bayna, Centerville Junior; Marisa Brough, Davis High; Shauna Christensen, Layton High; Kelland Davis, North Davis Junior; Cami Johnson, Centennial Junior; Chad King, Millcreek Junior; Kara Oliverson, West Point Junior; Melody Savage, South Davis Junior; Larry Smith, Bountiful

High; Michelle Taylor, Layton High; Linda Vaughn, Mueller Park Junior; Becky Vervloet, Clearfield High; Lori Warden, North Davis Junior; Brandon Welker, Clearfield High; Christine Wolf, Central Davis Junior.

Support Staff — Susan Christensen, Crestview Elementary; Sara Doty, Centerville/Heritage Elementary; Brooke Haag, Stewart Elemen-

tary; Shelly Iosefa, Viewmont High; Tricia Martin, Environmental Maintenance Services; Carol Nef, Teaching & Learning, Elin Scott, East Layton Elementary; Joni Slater, Whitesides Elementary; Joan Tuttle, Purchasing; Kate Williams, Evaluation & Quality Staffing.

Platinum Pride

Vae View and Stewart elementaries have gone platinum.

The two schools and two other Davis School District schools recently received STEM School designations from the STEM Action Center. Vae View is the only Title I school in the state to achieve platinum status and Stewart is the only Chinese immersion school to receive that designation.

The two schools celebrated with a collaborative assembly. Their student bodies Skyped congratulations and shared a video of their STEM efforts.

In order to receive the designation, faculty must work hard to develop a schoolwide STEM culture. The designation includes a



large application review, site visits and interviews.

The other schools achieving a STEM designation are Canyon Creek and Valley View, both with silver status.



Above: Vae View Principal David Pendergast welcomes Stewart Elementary on Skype. Left: Administrative Intern Lisa Gill readies for a whipped cream plate.



A student tries to look up at the bubbles forming on his head. A bubble demonstration was part of the assembly at Stewart Elementary.



Davis Education Foundation Director Jodi Lunt announces the donation of digital devices to Stewart Elementary.



Students at Stewart Elementary react to the bubble demonstration.