



# Uniquely Davis

www.davis.k12.ut.us | October 2019

## When the weather gets frightful

**S**now and cold came a bit early this year. With that in mind, the Davis School District reminds parents about procedures the district will use when it considers closing school for inclement weather.

The decision to close schools actually occurs in the early-morning hours when district snow plow drivers are out attempting to clear parking lots before students arrive at school. When plow drivers think conditions are bad, they make calls to the district's maintenance director, transportation director and facilities administrator, who then contact an assistant superintendent and superintendent of schools. That group then reviews road and weather reports provided by the local media, law enforcement and state highway representatives, and take into account student and employee safety, busing and security.

If the superintendent decides to close schools, that de-

cision will be made as early as possible and before school buses hit the roadways.

In the event of a closure, the district will post information on Twitter and Facebook. Parents and guardians will also be notified through a call out and email. Parents who opted in to receive text messages will also receive a text.

Additionally, the information will be posted to all school webpages. Area radio and TV stations will be notified to spread the word. The stations will only be notified when schools close. They will not be contacted when schools remain open.

If school closes because of weather, the school day, by state law, must be made up. Parents are also reminded that they may keep their student at home anytime they feel it is unsafe for their student to travel to school. Arrangements will then need to be made with the teacher for makeup work.



Students brave the cold weather as they travel home from school this week.

### Superintendency Message

## District focuses on aligning efforts with Strategic Plan

**T**he Davis School District Board of Education approved the revised Strategic Plan in the Fall of 2018. The revision of the Strategic Plan was a year in the making. After meeting with focus groups of parents, teachers, administrators, employees and students, the Board reviewed and cross-referenced the input from these groups to inform the revision of the Strategic Plan.

That revision, which can be found on the district website at <http://bit.ly/336hlwu>, maintained the motto of "Learning First" and provided revised Vision and Mission

Statements. "Davis School District provides an environment where growth and learning flourish" defines the Vision for Davis School District. The revised Mission Statement is "Educators, parents, and community members work together to create a successful educational experience for each student."

The Board then identified six key points to further define the work of the district. Culture, Student Growth &



John Zurbuchen

Achievement, Empowered Employees, Safety & Security, Fiscal Responsibility, and Parent & Community Connections provide the basic framework around which all the work of the district is directed.

In an effort to provide ongoing feedback on the work of the District as defined by the Strategic Plan, the Stakeholder Report is also available at <http://bit.ly/336hlwu>. This report is organized by the six focus areas identified above. Each focus area is identified and defined along with supporting

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# Senior finds success at international tourney

Until about five years ago, Brandon Robison never envisioned himself as a golfer. To him, the sport to play was basketball. He loved the hardwoods, and he loved the sound of the orange orb swishing through the polyester net.

Today he loves the ting of an iron hitting a golf ball. He has a natural tendency of driving the ball low and far, and when temperatures are chilly and a 20-mph wind is whipping, the ball cuts through the air and lands where he hopes it will.

That ability recently helped his team — which included Braxton Watts from Farming-

ton High and two golfers from Skyline High — become co-champions at the Junior America's Cup at Blackhawk Golf Club in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

The tournament featured 18 teams from the U.S., Canada, Mexico.

"It's very cool because golf is a very individual sport," Robison said, "... but the four top juniors in Utah got to play as a team. We were all rookies to the Junior America's Cup and that doesn't happen very much; we happen to be really tight-knit friends, so that was great; that really helped."

At the same tournament, Robison, a Viewmont High School senior, was also declared the second-best golfer on the links with a minus-3.

While he had been successful in other tournaments — including placing first in the IMG Academy Junior World Qualifying competition and first in the Lynn Summerhays Jr. Tournament — this was Robison's first international tournament.

"It was by far the most amazing course I've ever played

a tournament on," he said. "They had pretty average-sized fairways, but then after the fairway, they would have five yards of rough, and it would go into native grass and fescue, so it was super tough. And right around the greens, it had a little bit of fringe and (would) go straight into fescue and deep bunkers."

As the 17-year-old describes the course, which is ranked one of the top-10 in Canada, he also acknowledges he hasn't really played golf for a long time.



Brandon Robison, center in blue golf shirt, is finding success on the golf course.

basketball," he said. "... I just wanted to play basketball. I loved playing basketball. I've played it since before I can remember."

As a 12-year-old, he began playing golf a bit, and when he was 13, he actually won the second tournament he had ever competed in.

"I was like, 'OK, I think I can do this,'" he said. "So I started practicing and practicing, and my summers were spent at Davis Golf Course and Valley View Golf Course."

Robison said he would do odd jobs and favors like digging balls out of the weeds on the Davis driving range so he could play. He also took advantage of the Youth on Course program which allows teens to golf a round for \$5.

In addition, his Dad, as well as his buddies at school, started golfing more and more, so it was easy to be on the links early in the day and walk off the course at night. His passion for the game grew quickly.

He now has a swing coach named Boyd Summerhays.

"My Dad was a collegiate basketball player. My grandpa was an amazing basketball coach, so when I grew up, it was

## MESSAGE, From Pg. 1

documentation as to the progress in each area.

The documentation is not intended to be exhaustive in nature; it is not intended to reflect all the work in the District. Rather, the information is provided as a snapshot of the primary efforts in each of the six areas. The Stakeholder Report demonstrates the efforts across

the district to address progress in meeting and perhaps exceeding the six areas of focus as defined by the Strategic Plan.

Davis School District is proud to provide our community with the Stakeholder Report. We will continue to focus on the six pillars, proving that in Davis School District, the motto of "Learning First" is always our guiding star.

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## GOLF, From Pg. 1

His Dad — who he calls ‘my best friend,’ serves as his mental coach as well as backup swing coach. He is friends with professional golfer Tony Finau.

He also remembers exactly where he was when he placed the phone call to verbally commit to the school he wanted to play for.

It was July 4 on the 12th hole at Torrey Pines North Golf Course preparing for the IMG Junior World Junior Tournament.

Was it Pepperdine? BYU? Utah?

“I called ... and said, ‘Coach Clegg, I want to be a Ute. Let’s do this’.”

The goal of the three-time all-state golfer and region medalist — competing successfully in the junior golf world — was complete. He landed a scholarship. He would now be in the competitive PAC-12.

And between now and next June, Robison knows of at least two places he’ll be:

First, in the sunny confines of Scottsdale, Arizona, where he is coached by Summerhays.

Second, Toad’s Fun Zone in Ogden. It sports a heated bay and allows him to hit balls out in the snow.

Robison thinks fondly of Toad’s. It was there where it was minus-7 — not on the scorecard — on the temperature gauge.

“That one lasted about an hour,” Robison said as he chuckled. “I was in three coats. I could barely swing.”

# Students, staff doing great things

- **Bailey Bateman**, an art teacher at North Davis Junior High, received four awards recently at a local art show.

- North Davis Junior High Math Teacher **Kelland Davis** was named second runner-up at the Utah Teacher of the Year ceremony. Davis received \$3,000 and was honored with 25 other teachers of the year from across the state.

- **Kiana Madrid**, a senior at Davis High and **Jaron Hamblin**, a senior at Woods Cross High, were sworn in as student Board of Education members.

- **Syracuse High School** received the Davis School District “Learning First Achievement Award” for increasing the number of students taking Advanced Placement tests by 171 percent. At the same time, the school increased AP pass rates from 64 to 65 percent.

- Counselor **Chris Ashton** at Renaissance

Academy was awarded the 2019 Utah Association for Adult, Community and Continuing Education and Utah State Board of Education’s Youth-in-Custody Educator of the Year.

- Twenty-one students from Davis School District were named semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Bountiful High: **Graem Clayton, Mary Hanks, Olivia Harrison** and **Nathan Taylor**. Viewmont High: **Samuel Huff**. Clearfield High: **Rex Frampton** and **Bethany Nay**. Farmington High: **Rebecca Schank**. Davis High: **Phillip Addei, Devan Gwynn, Kira Halls, Kiana Madrid, Mary-Frances Oldham** and **Preston Waddoups**. Syracuse High: **Donald Bird** and **David Clark**. Woods Cross: **Anabelle Ballard, Benjamin De Vries, Madeleine Eliason, Cort Richards** and **Nicholas Van Staden**.

- The Utah Association of School Psychologists awarded **Lauren Rich** with the Distinguished Service to UASP; **Dr.**



From left: Lauren Rich, Dr. Heidi Block, Rovi Hidalgo.

**Heidi Block** as School Psychologist of the Year, and **Rovi Hidalgo** as School Psychology Student of the Year.

- Syracuse High Senior **Faith Williams** was crowned the Silver State International Rodeo Queen at the July competition held in Winnemucca, Nev.

- Shoreline Junior High Health Teacher

**Nicole Deaton** was recognized as the Utah Health Teacher of the Year, awarded by SHAPE America,

Society of Health and Physical Educators.

- **Ryan Marks**, has been selected to play for the Under Armour All-America Football Game. **Takeo Kano** was selected to play in the Blue and Grey All-American Bowl. Both attend Farmington High.

- Senior **Michael Garritson**, Syracuse High Future Farmers of America President, has been selected to play in the band at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis at the end of October.

- Pioneer Adult Rehabilitation Center CEO **Ken Naegle** was awarded the Garth Eldredge Award of Excellence by the Utah Rehabilitation Association. This is the highest award in Utah for people who serve individuals with disabilities and is awarded to a person who has made a long standing, career long impact on the field of rehabilitation in Utah.

- **Davis School District** was awarded the Education Partner of the Year Award from Davis Technical College recently.



# Going green in Garden Club



**Above:** Students dig holes in preparation for the bulbs.

**Right:** A student discovers a worm in the dirt.

**Below:** A PTA volunteer drills holes into the hard dirt.

**Far right:** A student creates a leaf rubbing during an activity in the garden club.



A couple of days after school during the fall and spring months, students in the garden club at Heritage Elementary head outside to get their hands dirty.

Right before the first cold freeze hit Davis County, nearly 30 students from the club spent an afternoon planting bulbs throughout the school's garden areas.

Never heard of a school garden club?

When Julia Carper was asked to be the Environmental PTA Chair last year, she decided students could help take part in the process, so the school's first garden club was created.

"We've heard many comments from parents saying that all of the school clubs are either sports or academic, and families don't always want to do that," said Carper. "It turned out there was a lot of student interest. I feel like they don't get out to play in the dirt as much anymore, so with the club, they can have fun doing that."

The garden club had nearly 40 members during the last school year and currently has 27 students. Some of the club activities include visiting J&J Nursery, looking at the inside of a bulb, creating leaf rubbings and learning how hardy plants survive during the winter.

Sixth-grader Aaron says he

joined the club to learn more about plants.

"I learned that when bulbs die, energy goes back to the bulb through the

stem and stalks. I didn't know that before," said Aaron.

Deanne Eggett, a parent volunteer, said students get a unique opportunity with the garden club.

"Gardening is one of my passions. It's beneficial for these kids to get in the dirt," said Eggett. "I firmly believe that as a society, we are losing our grip on nature and the importance of maintaining it. If kids don't have experiences with it, they won't know how to preserve it as they get older."