



District focuses on well being

South Weber and Hill Field elementary schools are boasting a 50 percent drop in student office referrals for behavior.

South Weber Principal Brooke Paras credits the significant change there to the school's focus on Social Emotional Learning (SEL). Hill Field Principal Doug Forsgren said his school's work on SEL led to a completely different feeling in the school compared to last year.

SEL is becoming an increasingly important tenet in the Davis School District as schools deal with a higher number of students dealing with mental health challenges such as anxiety and depression, District SEL Director Kathleen Chronister said.

Both South Weber and Hill Field are focus schools in the district's emerging SEL program, which means



Kindergarten students at South Weber Elementary learn the importance of eye contact as they greet other students.

weekly lessons or activities to teach students self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision making. South Weber and Hill Field feed into North Layton Junior High and Northridge High, which are the other two focus schools.

"As a school we needed something and I think that's why we were so apt to become part of this and really focus our efforts towards SEL," Forsgren said. "We've seen direct correlation with the number of office referrals."

The successful curriculum and strategies from the four focus schools will later be replicated in other schools throughout the district.

Outside of the four pilot schools, the district's primary focus is on adult well-being.

See SEL, Pg. 2

Superintendency Message

Parents, students, teachers: Be a little more kind

Our theme for district leadership training this year is "Be the One" – based on a quote from author/speaker Josh Shipp, "Every child is one caring adult away from being a success story."



Dr. Logan Toone

(regardless of their work assignment in our schools or district) is poised and empowered to make an individual difference for students.

A key accelerator for the work of difference-making is kindness. At some point in our lives, each of us has seen kindness in action. Kindness has an almost unexplainable power to ease stress, build confidence, and unite people for good.

Nebraska's former governor Bob Kerrey said: "Unexpected kindness is the most powerful, least costly, and most underrated agent of human

change."

Whether we work in schools as educators, attend schools as students, send our kids to schools as parents, or support schools as community partners, we need to remember that kindness is a powerful part of our efforts to "Be the One."

I do not believe that we live in a generally unkind society, but we are far from perfectly kind. We have the need to do a little better – to be a little more kind.

See MESSAGE, Pg. 2

For us, this theme represents more than just a nice message. It reflects a deeply-held belief about our role. We truly believe that every educator

Event focuses on SEL of youth

First Lady of the State of Utah Jeanette Herbert recently shared her thoughts on helping children develop resiliency at the Every One Matters Conference sponsored by Region 3 PTA and Davis School District Social Emotional Learning.

Unfortunately, she said, our culture is more about making sure kids are comfortable, rather than teaching children how to become problem solvers.

“We have basically mastered the art of enabling. We as parents are trying to stay one step ahead of everything our kids are going to run into, but the problem is, life doesn’t work that way,” said Herbert. “Our natural instinct is to jump in and save them, but we can’t always be there, and when we aren’t, the unintended consequence is that our child is left vulnerable to handle things on their own.”

Herbert also stated that parents and educators need to keep in mind that struggling is part of a child’s growth experience. “It’s the struggle that causes kids to develop the ability to fly,” she said. “The time is now to make critical changes at our schools, and adding social emotional learning in our schools is vitally important to give our children the skills they need, now more than ever.”

HOPE4UTAH Founder and Executive Director Dr. Greg Hudnall also spoke at the event, saying kids are resilient when given the opportunity.

“Parenting is hard and many of us are fuzzy about where we draw the line to intervene and help. Parents, allow your child to fail,” said Hudnall.

“As moms and dads, we remember the times when we were embarrassed and humiliated and we don’t want our child to go through the same thing, but the problem is that when we swoop in and protect them from having that happen, we take away their ability to build resiliency because we forget that is how we learned from our mistakes. Be there to help them pick up the pieces, be there to love and support them, but please let them fail.”

SEL, From Pg. 1

In the next few weeks, eight three-hour sessions will be offered to district employees to teach ways to deal with stress utilizing mindfulness and movement.

“As our adults learn these strategies,” Chronister said, “it will also translate to teaching students the same strategies.”

Additionally, the district purchased Nearpod SEL curriculum to be used in secondary schools. That program allows schools to target students who need help on certain social skills. Topics include resiliency, anger management strategies, stress management, mindfulness, self-awareness and self-management.

South Weber is using curriculum offered by Sanford Harmony. Chronister said during a recent visit to the school, she witnessed an activity called “buddy up,” where students were paired with a student in class and taught the skills for having a conversation with another student. Those activities led to the discovery of common interests. Each week, the students are paired with a different buddy.

“They’re getting explicit instruction on SEL competencies,” Paras said of the school’s program. “So like

caring about others, understanding their own emotions, things like that. Their focus area right now is ‘I care about others.’”

Hill Field put together an SEL team that developed its program. Students and adults focus weekly on different growth mindset skills.

“Our thing is the power of yet,” Forsgren said. “Kids may not be there yet, whether it’s behaviorally or academically, but we do believe all kids can grow and we want them to believe that they can grow and understand that we can do these things, we just need to keep working at it.”

He added that the well-being of teachers is an important part of the school’s program.

“The better we’ve learned those skills the better we’re going to be able to teach the kids those skills.”

Chronister said SEL programs are being utilized in other schools and have existed prior to this year. Moving forward, feedback gathered from the focus schools will help with better implementation in secondary schools, as well as the elementary schools.

“What we’re looking at is not only how we do SEL strategies and explicit SEL instruction, but how does that fit into the framework of the day,” Chronister said.

MESSAGE, From Pg. 1

Understanding and respecting our differences – a little more.

Setting aside our own self-interests – a little more.

Criticizing, complaining and blaming – a little less.

Giving of our time and effort – a little more.

Reaching out to the lonely, the frustrated, or the discouraged – a little more.

Whether working with students, colleagues, peers, or others, we can do a little better. Let us go forth and be a little more kind. Remember – a little goes a long way!

— Dr. Logan Toone,
Assistant Superintendent

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Accolades to students and staff for these recognitions

- Windridge Elementary ELA Coordinator **Janiel Wagstaff** received \$1,500 from Mountain America Credit Union to enhance the school's work on phonological proficiency (reading skills).

- **Bluff Ridge Elementary** was recognized as the first Nearpod Certified School in Utah. To receive the Nearpod certification, a school must meet a required level of engagement in classrooms and have at least three Nearpod certified teachers. Bluff Ridge Elementary has 16 Nearpod certified teachers.

- **Davis High** placed sixth and **Farmington High** placed 10th in the Bands of America Regional Competition in St. George. Davis School District was the only school district in eight states to have two bands qualify for the event. During the Utah Red Rocks State Marching Band Championship held the same weekend, **Davis High** placed second in the 6A Open Division, **Farmington High** received the 5A Open Division championship and region title, **Northridge High** received sixth place in the 6A Scholastic Division and **Viewmont High** placed fourth in the 5A Open Division.

- **West Bountiful Elementary** is one of six schools from Utah that are finalists in Samsung's Solve for Tomorrow \$3 Million National STEM Contest. The contest challenges students to show how STEM can be applied to help improve their local communities.

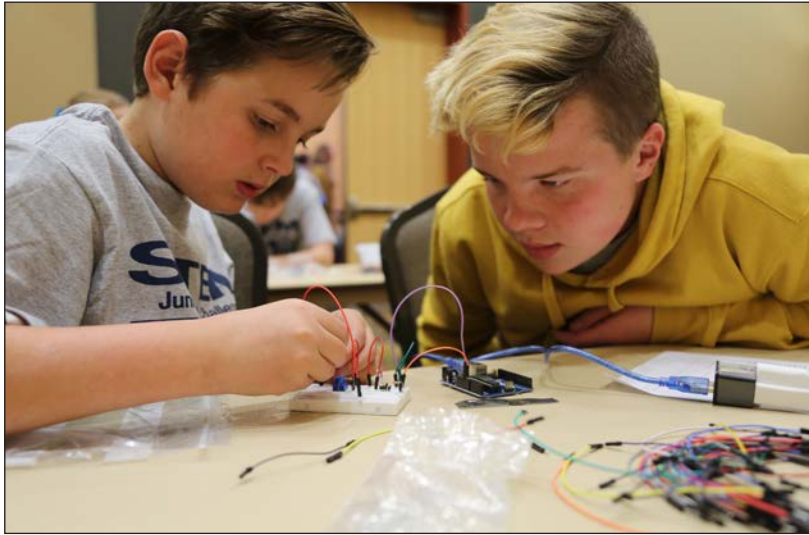
- Students competed in the district's Junior High STEM Challenge, which included a coding bot challenge, circuit building, longest paper bridge creation, paper roller coaster contest and science investigation.

Winners included: Bountiful Junior High students **Brooklyn Bedingfield, Jackson Rice, Kenadie Roberts, Larson Rupp, Kylee Smith, Ryan Wood** and **Tyson Wood**; Fairfield Junior High students **Emery Barrus, Parker Chandler, Brenna Kugler, Corbon Forsythe, Joseph Johnson, Warren King, Zack Kingston, Keylee Lowe, Prestan Lowe, Genevieve McFadden, Elias Nalder, Sam Reynolds** and **Stacy Wood**; and Mueller Park Junior High students **Mason Cristopherson, Eliza Davis, Sam Hansen, Jane Maughan, Raylee Nielsen, Grant Nylander, Caleb Richards, Kaden Roberts, Boyd**

Robinson and Katherine Northon.

- High school art students from around the district participated in the annual Davis Arts Council Student Art Competition at the Snow Horse Gallery in the Davis Convention Center. The Davis County Commissioners Office gave the Commissioners Award to "The Girl with the City in Her Head" by **Erica Teaford** from Woods Cross High. The Davis Arts Council Board of Trustees gave the Purchase Award and Best of Show to "Blueberry Blues" by **Aubrey Terry** from Layton High. Other award winners and honorable mentions include "Flowers Please" by **Zoe Santos**, Northridge, "Milk & Cookies" by **Aubree Hoffman**, Davis, "Slurpee" by **Lauren Geisier**, Woods Cross, and "Me in Triplicate" by **Liz Howey**, Woods Cross.

- Students from throughout the district took to the stage recently to compete in the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Speech Contest. Students first compete at the school level and then move onto the district



Two students participate in the Junior High STEM Challenge.

contest.

- Winners include: Kindergarten through second grade — first place tie: **Austin Cales**, Bountiful Elementary and **Gabriella Hayward**, Kaysville Elementary; second place tie: **Grant Cowdin**, Heritage Elementary and **Malan Poll**, Mountain View Elementary, third place: **Jeffrey Dunna**, Orchard Elementary. Third through fourth grades — first place: **Nikki Hunt**, Mountain View Elementary, second place: **Maci Steffensen**, Heritage Elementary, third place **Poet Bigelow**, Endeavour Elementary. Fifth through sixth grades — first place: **Beatrice Etter**, Endeavour Elementary, second place tie: **Bode Buys**, Odyssey Elementary and **Coleman Hall**, Mountain View Elementary, third place: **Sadeelyn Savage**, Adelaide Elementary. Seventh through 12th grades — first place **Alexa Hatch**, West Point Junior High, second place: **Alyssa Steffensen**, Shoreline Junior High and third place: **Skye Thompson**, Northridge High.

- **Courtney Ward** received the Utah Afterschool Program Director of the Year Award. She has been working with afterschool programs in Davis County for over 20 years. She now oversees 17 programs that serve over 1,200 kids in Davis School District.



Honoring Heroes



Utah Highway Patrol Trooper Ruben Correa was honored for his heroic actions in saving a man's life. Above, left: Students wave the U.S. flag as they sing a patriotic song.

An Odyssey Elementary student made a special effort this Veteran's Day to recognize U.S. Marine Corps veteran Ruben Correa. Currently a Utah Highway Patrol trooper, he came to the rescue when a car was stuck on the Frontrunner tracks in Centerville on Oct. 16.

During the school's Veteran's Day program, sixth-grade student Reagan gave him a handmade cardboard shield filled with thank you messages from several students. "I think he is a hero because when he was in the face of danger, he could have just backed out, but he persisted to get the man out of the car," said Reagan.

Correa has mixed emotions about being recognized. "I honestly was just doing my job. I know there are a lot of officers, firefighters and medical service personnel who would do the same thing," he said.

That day when the call came out letting troopers know a car was stuck on the tracks, Correa happened to be in the area. He pulled over and ran up to the tracks to pull the unconscious driver out of the car.

"If I had been just (one second) slower, I wouldn't be here today. It's a miracle," said Correa, who avoids watching

the video of the incident since it was such a close call.

He credits the rescue to his training in the Marine Corps.

"The Marine Corps is unique. From day one when you go to boot camp, they train you to act on muscle memory so you can react on your instincts," Correa said. "I think that's what happened that day combined with the Utah Highway Patrol

training they've provided me. As a result, I was able to get the mission done to get him out of the car and put him in a safe area."

Several veterans were recognized during the special program. Parents and grandparents who served in the military were invited to attend.

"Not only did these brave veterans do heroic things for us while they served, but they have gone on to do heroic things for us right here," said Princip

pal Julie Peters. "It makes us proud to have students that in a world where you see so much of the negative, these kids are recognizing good things that are happening."

Many Veteran's Day programs were held throughout the district. They varied from lunches with veterans, flight-simulator demonstrations, musical assemblies and historical presentations.



Students sing the National Anthem to honor the visiting veterans. Family members who served in the Armed Services were invited to the Veteran's Day program.