



February 7, 2020

Building Beat

Cardinal Country

Upcoming

Monday, February 10:
Davison High School
Scheduling 101, 6 p.m.
Auditorium

Tuesday, February 11:
Gates Elementary PTO
Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Media Center

Siple Elementary PTO
Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Media Center

Hahn Intermediate Winter
Band Concert, 7 p.m.
DHS Auditorium

**Wednesday,
February 12:**
Davison Alternative
Education Cupcakes on
Count Day

Supplemental State
Headcount Day

DHS freshmen heading to Europe this summer to sing

Clara Usealman, a freshman at Davison High School, has been selected to perform this summer with the Blue Lake Fine Arts International Choral program. That means Clara will be able to do what she loves best—singing and performing—in places like Paris and Italy.

"I am very excited to be learning about the culture," Clara said.

In order to be invited to the tour, Clara had to submit an audition tape. She performed "My Country Tis Of Thee" and the Italian song "Danza Danza." She wowed the judges and is now tasked with raising the \$6,000 she will need to join the tour.

Clara said she knew from a very young age that she wanted to perform.

"Ever since I was little, I just liked to do all sorts of things," she said, adding that she sings at her church and takes a musical theatre class at the Dance Connection.

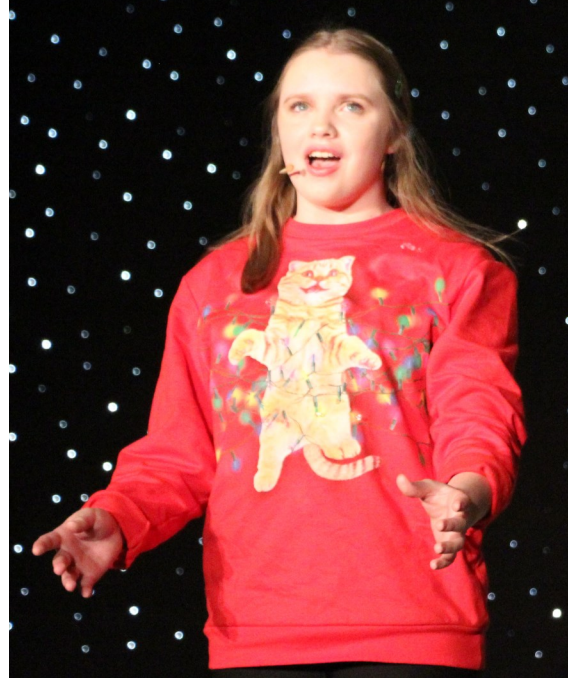
Clara also takes voice lessons from Broadway performer Lisa Capps. While it is not Broadway (but close), the audience will get a chance to see Clara in action as she was recently cast as Pugsly Addams in the upcoming DHS Varsity Musical, "The Addams Family."

"I really love singing," Clara said. "It makes me happy."

In fact, Clara plans to make a career out of it.

"I really want to be a voice teacher so I can teach other people how to sing," she said.

A fundraiser is currently ongoing to help Clara raise funds for the international tour. You can contribute through at <https://www.facebook.com/donate/2633027070260659/135737054519768/> or send a check to Blue Lake Fine



DHS freshman Clara Usealman has sung her way into a spot on the Blue Lake Fine Arts International Choral tour but needs help with financing the trip.

Arts Camp with "Clara Usealman - choir" in the memo line and mail to: Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, 300 E Crystal Lake Road, Twin Lake, MI 48457

Swim teams collaborate to raise money for Camp Quality

Davison and Swartz Creek/Flushing swim teams recently collaborated on fundraising efforts for Camp Quality; a foundation that offers camp experiences for children diagnosed with cancer. According to Davison Swim Coach Martin Quertermous, one of the Swartz Creek swimmers tragically lost a family member to pediatric cancer several years ago and the family continually gives back to the swim community in Swartz Creek. Collectively, the teams were able to raise more than \$1,000 in donations.

"Davison walked away with the win of the meet, but the efforts by both teams to give back to something bigger than them was amazing to watch," Coach Quertermous said.



VFW honors student for Voice of Democracy speech and 2 Teachers of the Year

A Davison High School student and two Davison teachers were recently recognized on a District Level by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Last month, Davison High School sophomore **Benjamin Stoica** was recognized for his third place win in the District-wide VFW "Voice of Democracy" competition. The event was held at the Clio VFW Post and Ben advanced after winning the Davison local Post 4087 competition. Ben was the recipient of a medal, certificate and a monetary prize.



Benjamin

Also recognized were Hill Elementary Teacher **Linda Strine** and Davison High School Teacher **Raina Palso** for VFW Teachers of the Year.

Mrs. Strine was nominated for the award by Hill Elementary Principal **Jennifer Burke** for her involvement with students on Constitution Day and a grandparent photo activity where students bring in photos of grandparents at a similar or younger age than the student and classmates discuss simi-

Right, Linda Strine accepts her award. Far right, Raina Palso shows off her plaque.



larities and differences.

"It was an honor to receive the nomination and be recognized by our Local VFW," Mrs. Strine said. "They are such lovely and dedicated citizens in our community. I really enjoyed hearing the student essays (Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy) and celebrating the students who won. Being recognized for District 10 Teacher of the Year was also a very nice honor. The scholarship program that the VFW has is really remarkable."

Both Mrs. Strine and Mrs. Palso received two trophy awards—one for the local award, one for district—as well as a certificate and a \$50 check.

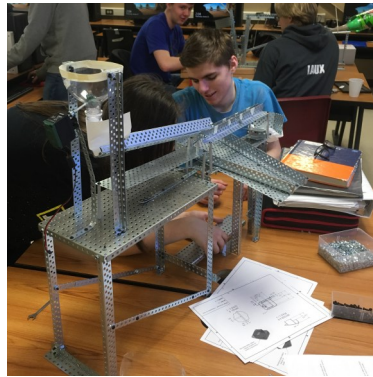
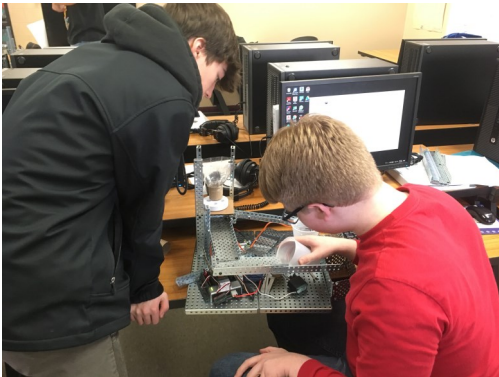
"Dave Love from the local post informed me that Assistant Superintendent **Matt Lobban** nominated me, and I truly appreciate that nomination," Ms. Palso said. "I am humbled, as Matt Lobban was once a student in my class. It is such an honor that it came from him."

Alums will join in at upcoming Alma College and DHS choir concert

The Alma College and the Davison High School Choirs will join together for a concert at Davison High School on Wednesday, February 26, 2020. The 90-minute concert will begin at 6:30 p.m. and is open to the public.

Davison High Choir alums **Sasha Dudock & Maddison Luebke** will be performing with the Alma College Choir.

Engineering students simulate recycling center with marble sorters



Students in Mrs. **Samantha Sny's** high school Principles of Engineering class were recently working on creating marble sorters. The sorters simulated a recycling center. The marbles were sorted physically and with sensors the students have learned to program. What a great example of hands-on learning and students getting some career technical education!

NHS student organizes clothing drive to help fellow DCS students

Help support one of our awesome DHS students! Alexis Tracey, a senior at Davison High School and a member of the National Honor Society, has organized a drive/collection to gather gently used hats, gloves/mittens, scarves, socks, sweatpants/stretch pants, boots, snow pants, tennis shoes, and new underclothes. All items collected will be divided up among the elementary schools here in Davison.

Collection boxes are located at two locations at Davison High School: Just outside the office and at the entrance near the gymnasium/auditorium. The drive will run through Friday, February 14.



Alexis

valentines for vets

Page 4

Students at Davison High School participated in the fourth annual Valentines for Vets on Tuesday, January 28. This special project, led by Teacher Raina Palso, allows students to create handmade Valentine's Day cards that will be shared with disabled and hospitalized veterans in Mid-Michigan. Students need edho supplies or experience as a card-making professional led the instruction.

Special thanks to Ms. Palso for leading this project and to the students who stayed after school to create the beautiful cards!

Photos/
Claudia
Singles





Recognizing staff members who go above and beyond in creating connections with students and living out our Kids First Mission. The staff member featured here was nominated for the monthly Kids First award but not randomly selected to win the \$100 gift card from the Mark Owen MEEMIC Insurance Agency. These stories still deserve to be told!

Melissa Tersigni

Nominated by Natalie Miller,
Thomson Elementary Principal

“It is with great respect that I nominate **Melissa Tersigni** for the Kids First Award. Melissa has been a Title I paraprofessional at Thomson for many, many years. In the time that I have been at Thomson, I have observed the many ways in which Melissa puts kids first. Of course, she works diligently to meet their academic needs in her paraprofessional role. She is creative in this work and always looking for ways to engage the kindergarteners she works with in ways that will allow them to access learning in the ways they need. Melissa is conscious with her time and uses the minutes in the day to their fullest in the service of students. Additionally, and just as important, she works to build relationships with kids that others may shy away from. Melissa has been known to give extra care to students who come to school and need to be cleaned up and that need a little extra attention to get their day started off on the right foot. This shows the ‘heart’ with which she approaches her work!

Additionally, Melissa is a team player. In a school, there are many who wear multiple hats and that are willing to jump in and help out when and where needed...Melissa is one of these staff members. She helps our little ones get through the breakfast line in the morning, a task that could be compared to herding cats. Recently, we have been experiencing a shortage with our playground monitors. Melissa has stepped up on almost every occasion to fill in for an absent playground monitor, thus ensuring that all classrooms have an adult to watch over them...something we all appreciate!

Melissa is truly a ‘Kids First’ employee whose dedication to kids, the building, and education as a whole is amazing. We are very fortunate to have Melissa on staff at Thomson Elementary and the greater Davison Schools community!”

