A Review of the Great Things Happening in Our Schools.

Building Beat

December 13, 2016

Upcoming ...

Tuesday, December 13:
Central Second Grade Concert, 7 p.m.
DHS Auditorium

Thursday, December 15:
DHS Winter Band Concert, 6:30 p.m. DHS Auditorium

Friday, December 16:
Popcorn Friday at Gates Elementary

Popcorn Firday at Hill Elementary

Popcorn Friday at Central Elementary

Monday, December 19:
Thomson PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Media Center

Tuesday, December 20:
DHS Winter Choir Concert, 6:30 p.m. DHS Auditorium

Wednesday, December 21:
DMS Winter Vocal Music Concert, 7 p.m. DHS Auditorium

Friday, December 23—

Quiz Bowl team headed for state championship bid

The Davison High School **Varsity Quiz Bowl** has been on fire this season and is headed for the state championship playoffs in April after tying for first in the Genesee Academic League Division II with a record of 13-2. The team's overall season is an impressive 15-3.



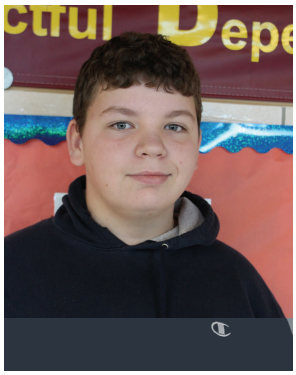
Left to right: Members of the DHS Quiz Bowl Team Hanna Schian, Samantha Tracey, Brian Hall and Michael Stubbert. Not pictured are Jacob Gieselman and Michael Schiestel.

In October, the team won Game 1 of WCMU Quiz Central, 150-130 over Mt. Pleasant, and then turned right around and beat Cadillac to earn a spot at the quarterfinals. You can catch the Cadillac game at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 27, on WKAR (Channel 10 on Charter cable). Tomorrow, the team competes in the Genesee Academic League meet at Davison High School. Our students will face state champ Flushing at 4 p.m. in Room 212.

The quarterfinals will take place on February 1, 2017. Davison is scheduled to play Midland Dow at 11 a.m. The winner of that game will go on to play Flushing at 1 p.m. that afternoon. Good luck!

DMS 8th grade student begins Toys for Tots drive

Davison Middle School student **Ben Williams, Jr**. knows all too well what it's like not to have gifts to open at Christmas and he's determined to make sure other kids don't have to experience the same disappointment.



Ben Williams, Jr.

So when the district shared Ben's plans to organize a Toys for Tots drive at Davison Middle School last week on its social media sites, the story caught the attention from many well wishers as well as retail giant Meijer. Joe Olejniczak, the new store director at the Davison Meijer, saw Ben's story and called the district's administrative offices to see how he could help Ben with his community project.

“To our surprise Joe provided Ben with two $500 cards to purchase toys for this endeavor,” said Superintendent **Eric Lieske**. “It was quite emotional to watch Joe explain how Ben’s story impacted him.”

Ben, an 8th grader, now lives with his dad, but wanted to do something to help not only other kids but his school.

“When I lived with my mom, I didn’t always have a Christmas,” Ben, an eighth grader, said. “When I moved in with my dad, me and him were talking about what I could do to help my school and I thought: Toys for Tots.”

Ben said he came up with the idea because it’s the same organization that his karate school, PKSA, held a collection for last year. Ben approached Davison Middle School Principal Mrs. **Shelly Fenner-Krasny** to see if he could organize something similar and have the school serve as a donation site. Mrs. Fenner-Krasny approved the request and a U.S. Marine dropped off an official Toys for Tots collection box at the school.

“I’d like to try and collect a minimum of 1,000 toys, but I think that’s a big goal,” he said. “Maybe I will be able to do that eventually.”

Ben said he hopes to continue collecting for Toys for Tots throughout the years.

“I would like to even expand more through Michigan, past the Flint and Burton areas, and really spread it out so more kids can get toys,” he said.

Toys will be accepted at the Middle School through 9 a.m. Friday, December 16. Toys need to be new and in their original packaging.

“You don’t have to go out and buy the most expensive thing,” Ben said. “It can be just an action figure or a Barbie doll. But if you do (buy something expensive), that’s pretty nice.”

When Ben isn’t thinking of ways to help others he enjoys hanging out with his dog, Daisy, a mixed breed, and playing sports.

Cardinal Feeder offers free snacks, meals to hungry DHS, DAE students

Thanks to the Davison Optimist Club, hungry Davison High School and Alternative Education students now have a place to go to grab a snack or even a meal right on campus.

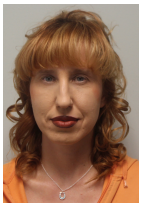
The Cardinal Feeder is located in room 230 at the high school, a room near the guidance office that is easily accessible to all DHS and DAE students. The room, which houses products such as snacks, breakfast foods, boxed meals, soup, canned food and drinks, was made possible due to a generous donation by the Davison Optimist Club. Challenge Coordinator **Neicy Kowalczyk** is the program coordinator and direct link between the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, Optimist Club and the district. **Laura Rooker**, who also serves as a Challenge Coordinator, is the Feeder’s on-site supervisor and works in the pantry



Davison Optimist Club members (back row) Neicy Kowalczyk, Scott Kowalczyk, Bob Pilhstrom and Debbie Dunckel (front left) are joined by Food Bank of Eastern Michigan Sponsorship Manager Kathleen Payton (center) and Laura Rooker, front right.

during open hours to assist students. The food pantry is open from 7:10-7:20 a.m. and 2:15-3 p.m. Mondays and Fridays and 9-9:25 a.m. and 2:15-3 p.m. Wednesdays.

Davison High School teachers recognized, selected for honors



Ms. Palso

Davison High School Teacher **Raina Palso** recently earned the "Teacher of the Year" award from the Davison Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4087. Raina's nomination, prepared by DHS Counselor **Rebecca Vannest**, will continue on to the district level and—fingers crossed—on to be a $50,000 National level winner! All of us know Raina's passion for her subject matter and for veterans. She lives and breathes the purpose of this award. Congrats Raina!



Ms. Aboneaaj

Congratulations also go out to **Jodi Aboneaaj** who was recently selected for the University of Chicago's Outstanding Educator Award. This award is given to selected educators who have been nominated by a university student whose life was influenced, challenged or guided by these educators. Jodi was nominated by 2016 graduate Dustin Wood. Great job!

Nominations sought for exemplary math and science teachers

Do you know an exemplary 7-12th grade math or science teacher? If so, please consider nominating him/her/them for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching Awards, the highest recognition a K-12 teacher can receive for outstanding science or mathematics teaching in the United States. Deadline is May 1, 2017. For additional information, please visit: 2017 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.doc

Middle School Robotic teams do well in first outing at Kettering competition

The Davison Middle School Robotics FRC teams 9514 & 10058 had an impressive first outing Saturday, December 3, at Kettering University. The seventh grade team—Team 10058 The Mocking Cardinal—placed 23rd out of 32 teams. The eighth grade team—Team 9541 Cardinal Overload—placed seventh out of 32 teams, allowing them to move into the semi-finals.

Team 10058 was also a finalist for the Rockwell Collins Innovate Award, which recognizes "bringing ideas from concept to reality." The teams are led by DMS science Teacher **Kirk Hanson**.



Davison Middle School Team 10058 The Mocking Cardinal.



Davison Middle School Team 9514 Cardinal Overload.

DMS students show off acting chops in Drama Night

Davison Middle School students in Ms. **Michelle Wilson's** Introduction to Theatre classes performed as part of a Drama Night December 1 in the Davison High School Auditorium. Third hour performed at 6 p.m. and fourth hour students took the stage at 7 p.m. Both plays were vignettes by Lindsay Price about middle school life. The first was called "Hoodie" and was about appearance and how we judge others and ourselves, said Ms. Wilson. The second performance, called "Box," was about identity.

Davison High School selects Students of the Month

SEPTEMBER

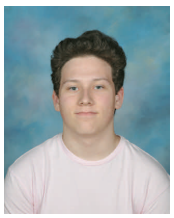
9th grade: **Alyssa Hennessy**
Nominated by: Ms. **Lauren Draper**
"This freshman stands out among the sophomores in my Geometry class. She comes in every day with a smile on her face and a positive attitude. I look forward to seeing her in class each day. I can ALWAYS count on her to help the students that sit at her table even though they are older than her. The students look up to her and truly appreciate her guidance and support. She comes to class prepared and ready to learn each and every day. Alyssa is very dependable and is a wonderful representation of what Davison stands for!


Alyssa

10th grade: **Alex Turner**
Nominated by: Mrs. **Katie Davis**
"Alex is a very good-natured, dedicated student. He is always ready to answer questions and loves to participate in class activities. He has a lot of school spirit, dressing up every day during spirit week. He is the type of student that makes it fun to be a teacher because his attitude is so positive!"


Alex

11th grade: **Max Sturgill**
Nominated by: Mrs. **Amy Sherlock**
"Max has ... become an excellent student this year. He has great attendance and is earning all As and Bs."


Max

12th grade: **Matthew McInnis**
Nominated by: Mr. **Andrew Michalik**
"We had to go into secure mode for a student who had cut his finger. Matt went above and beyond by helping secure the building and assist in making sure no one walked through the area where the other student had been hurt. He was a great example of a student going into action during a accident situation. He made me so proud. Day in and out he has been a very respectable student. He is a great example of Davison Made!


Matthew

DAE: **Monty Hyrman**
Nominated by: Mr. **Walt White** and Mrs. **Katie Davis**
"He is helpful to his fellow students. He is helpful to his teachers. Always has a smile for someone who really needs one. Respectful in class and in the hallway." (Mr. White)


Monty

"Monty is an exemplary student. He is always prepared, works diligently every day, and is one of the most courteous students I have. He always greets everyone with a smile and is quick to help someone out. Monty is very bright and I can always count on him to answer a question in class. He is the model of what a student should look like!" (Mrs. Davis)

OCTOBER

9th grade: **Mackenzie Matthess**

"Mackenzie is not just a nice student, she goes above and beyond when it comes to being attentive and dependable in class. She always checks in about homework and assignments to make sure she knows exactly what she needs to do, and then follows through! If everyone paid attention and cared the way Mackenzie does, our school would be unstoppable!"



Mackenzie

10th grade: **Taylor Coffeen**

Nominated by: **Ms. Leslye Long**

"Taylor is an outstanding student. She works hard each day she is in class. She participates often and helps other students around her if they need help. Taylor is always respectful and willing to assist me in any way I may need. I truly enjoy having Taylor in class each day! It is my pleasure to teach her and I am looking forward to a great year!"



Taylor

11th grade: **Devynn Geisenhaver**

Nominated by: Mrs. **Rebecca Vannest**

"Devynn was supportive and dependable recently when we had two new students to DHS on the same day. It is very helpful for new students to see a friendly face from a fellow student and to have the opportunity to ask questions of a student that attends Davison High School. Devynn stepped up to the plate and assisted both new students in separate tours. She was very friendly and supportive of the students and their questions. She also took the time to track down the answers to questions she did not know. It was very dependable and supportive of Devynn to make sure these new students felt comfortable on their first day of school. Devynn did a great job welcoming new students to our school.



Devynn

12th grade: **Monica Donias**

Nominated by: Mrs. **Suzie Miller**

"Monica is the epitome of a senior leader. She has helped her fellow students in class, has offered advice and guidance, and has even played a large part in the "shy" students opening up. As a first year Yearbook Advisor, I walked into class knowing the bare essentials of what Yearbook entailed. Monica has aided me in the ins-and-outs of the class, has been more than willing to lead her classmates, and is someone whose input I respect and value. She balances her studies, involvement in clubs, extracurricular activities, and yearbook obligations like a pro and is someone her classmates truly look up to. She is an absolute pleasure to have in class."



Monica

DAE: **Jacob Ready**

Nominated by: Mrs. **Lindsey Hollenback**

"Jacob is a great kid. I'm so happy he is attending DAE. Not only is Jacob a great student academi-



Jacob

cally, but a great role model for other students. Whenever there is conflict Jacob is the first to step in and help out. He gives great advise to his peers. He is an all-around great student.

NOVEMBER


Maren

9th Grade: **Maren Blanchard**
Nominated by: Miss **Leslye Long**
"Maren is an outstanding young lady. Not only is she a freshman in a traditional junior level math course, but she is doubling up on math and taking Honors Geometry this year as well. Maren is a hard worker and puts everything she has into her studies. She is maintaining one of the highest grades in my Algebra 2 course right now. She is continuously volunteering during notes and helping those around her that may be struggling. She challenges her classmates to be better and to do more. She is a pleasure to have in class. Every day as Maren leaves, she tells me: "Goodbye and have a great day!" and she sits across the classroom and says it on her way out of the classroom. Maren is a fantastic representation of a Davison High School student!"


Chloe

10th Grade: **Chloe LaFave-Hale**
Nominated by: Mrs. **Shaun Kovatch**
"Chloe is every teacher's dream. Academically she is driven, conscientious and hard working. It is her optimism and enthusiasm in everything she does that allows her to stand out from others. Her creativity and curiosity for the world around her will assist her passion to achieve her goals."


Taya

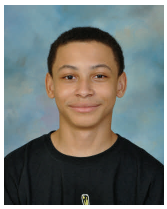
11th Grade: **Taya Cumpata**
Nominated by: Mrs. **Shaun Kovatch** and Mrs. **Tricia Orr**
"Taya is a model student with exemplary character. Through her work ethic, she shows what it takes to be successful, while going above and beyond to be helpful to others." (Mrs. Kovatch)
"Even though I have not recently had Taya as a student in my classroom, I have continued to observe what a kind and caring person she is to her classmates and her teachers. Taya takes time to greet me when she sees me in the hallway and I have observed her interactions with students in the hallway and classroom setting, and can honestly say she is very sweet and caring. She takes the time to genuinely ask others how they are doing and offers to help them in any way she can. She is also a very dedicated worker when it comes to doing her absolute best in all that she does. She takes her school work very seriously and would rather be overly challenged then have things made easier for her. If as a teacher, I could have all my students be as caring, kind and hard working as Taya my job would be super easy! She is a wonderful young lady and a role model to her fellow classmates.


Hannah

12th Grade: **Hannah Boyd**
Nominated by: Mrs. **Tracey Fowler**
"I haven't had Hannah in class since her sophomore year, but she is still always willing to lend a hand when needed. As a student, Hannah is a teacher's dream. She works hard and always puts forth 110%. Her assignments are meticulous and her dedication to learning is unparalleled. However, to me she shines because of her willingness to sacrifice personal time to help others. And I know it will be done the right way. She has such a good, solid head on her shoulders and positive intent in her

heart. The stories she shares show that she comes from a loving family and that all of her priorities are in line. Hannah is dedicated to being a successful, contributing member of society. She will attend a notable university, and she will make Davison proud!"

DAE: **Brandon Jones**
Nominated by: Miss **Crystal Weekley**
"Brandon is an excellent student. He is always attentive and respectful, and courteous to others. He participates in class discussions to the benefit of others in class, and is a real asset to the group. In Physical Science, he excels tremendously by autonomously completing his work and exceeding high expectations. He is a star student of DAE and a perfect example of the Cardinal Code."



Brandon

News from our Alumni

Amanda Welliver (DHS Class of 2011) was recently named to the dean's list at Miami University in Ohio. Welliver is earning a Bachelor's of Science degree in Nursing. She is a member of the Nursing Class of 2017.

Brett Baker (DHS Class of 2004) is serving as the Chief Operating Officer for a network of charter schools in Brooklyn. He previously taught in Newark, NJ before opening an elementary school in Newark as its founding Director of Operations.

Western Michigan University Sophomore **Alyssa Burke (**DHS Class of 2015) was recently named 1st Team All-Mid American Conference in Women's Soccer and was named to the Academic All-MAC Team with a 3.88 GPA. Alyssa finished tied for fourth in the MAC in points (12) and tied for second in the MAC in assists (4). Alyssa finished the season with 4 goals and 4 assists for the Broncos.

Siblings **Holly** and **Jake Bronson** are members of the Michigan State University Marching Band (pictured right). Holly is a member of the DHS Class of 2013 and Jake is a 2015 DHS graduate. Their dad, James Bronson, teaches band at Davison Middle School.



Have an idea for Building Beat? We love to hear from our staff, students and alums! If you have a story or accomplishment to share, or would like to let us know what you are doing since graduation, please email us at: medwards@davisonschools.org