



March 18, 2015

*A Review of the
Great Things
Happening in
Our Schools.*

Building Beat

Upcoming ...

Thursday, March 19:
Hill Book Fair

Thomson "PJ Day" Snuggle
Up to a Good Book for
Reading Month

Central 1st Grade
Concert, 7 p.m. DHS
Auditorium

Friday, March 13:
Central "Drop Everything
and Read" for Reading
Month

Gates "Read a Shirt" Wear
a Shirt with Words on It for
Reading Month

Hill PJ Day "Relax and
Read with Humphrey" for
Reading Month

Saturday, March 21:
MSBOA State Solo &
Ensemble Festival, Lapeer
High School

Monday, March 23:
Kindergarten Registration,
DHS AMR

Tuesday, March 24:
Kindergarten Registration,
DHS AMR

Hahn Vocal Music Concert,
7 p.m. DHS Auditorium

Wednesday, March 25:
Kindergarten Registration,
DHS AMR

Gates 1st Grade Concert,
7 p.m. DHS Auditorium

DHS Busters place third in sporting clays competition

The Davison High School Busters competed in their first registered event last Saturday, placing third overall in Sporting Clays! The varsity squad of **Luke Martin, Caleb Mulholland** and **Tom Colvin** broke 214 targets, finishing behind Kent County Conservation League and the Mattawan Shooting Team. Athletes from as far as the Upper Peninsula of Michigan traveled to Grand Blanc to shoot at the Grand Blanc Huntsman's Club where over 150 members competed! The team is coached by DHS Secretary **Connie Trombley**.

Mr. Davison competition set for this Friday

Sixteen contestants will vie for the title of Mr. Davison this Friday. The event, a fundraiser for the Class of 2016, will take place at 7 p.m. in the DHS Auditorium. Tickets are \$5.

This year's contestants include: **Matt Allard, Logan Bailey, Brad Brancheau, Austin Eaton, Manny Galea, Corey Gray, Caleb Gulledege, Shane Heddy, Josh Hill, Keagan McQueen, Cameron Morin, Luis Perez, Mark Pyland, Josh Sloat, Matt Smith Jr. and Dillon Welliver.**

This is the eighth year for the event, coordinated by DHS Teacher **Jodi Aboneaaj**. The winner is crowned Mr. Davison and wins \$150. The runner-up gets a \$75 prize while third, fourth and fifth place winners each receive \$25. In addition, audience members get a chance to earn raffle prizes (gift cards and even a prom ticket) after purchasing their \$5 admission ticket.

Key Club to host annual spring Lock-In for Grades 1-4

The **Davison High School Key Club** is planning its annual Spring Lock-In for students in grades 1-4 for 5-9 p.m. Friday, March 27, at Davison High School. Cost is \$10 for one child and \$8 for every additional child. Activities will include a LEGO room, bouncy obstacle course, finger painting, sports, board games, makeovers, arts and crafts and much more. Permission slips and money are due Thursday, March 19 to your child's school. The Key Club is sponsored by DHS Teacher **Mark Ragnone**.

Please return your Balanced Calendar survey

Surveys sent to parents and staff to seek their opinion about the possibility of implementing a district K-12 Balanced Calendar are starting to come in. If you received a survey and haven't yet turned it in, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you!

Where futures begin

A Fully Accredited District

DTV earns four 1st place MAB awards

Congratulations to **DTV** students who walked away with four first-place awards, including Best Newscast in the state, following last week's Michigan Association of Broadcasters conference in Lansing. In addition to their awards, students were able to connect with broadcast industry professionals and attended seminars to help with career planning. The day ended with an unexpected trip to the state capital where DTV students were announced on the State House floor and commended by Reps. Sheldon Neeley and Pam Ferris.

Learning the Lingo: Academic Vocabulary

The world of education changes almost as fast as technology—there's always something new to learn and educators are constantly fine tuning their craft in order to make sure their students are best equipped for success. Sometimes, it seems like educators even speak a different language using acronyms and terms like DIBELS, DRA, formative and summative assessments, PLCs, STAR, QAR, SRG, Title I, District Accreditation, universal screener, ACC, PD and data dialogue just to name a few. But what do they all mean?

In this edition of the Building Beat, we will begin to define what these terms mean. Today's *Learning the Lingo* lesson deals with Academic Vocabulary.

According to District Assessment Coordinator **Eric Chorley**, Academic Vocabulary includes specific terms that educators have determined students need to know in order to be successful not only on assessments, but in literacy as they move up grade levels.

"Academic Vocabulary is critical because we all need to speak the same language," said Assistant Superintendent **Kevin Brown**. "If you and I are teaching the same class but I use the word length and you use the word distance, it leads to confusion. We all have to use the same language for clarity and consistency."

"If students cannot interpret the words they are reading then comprehension becomes impossible," Chorley said. "Especially when students make the transition from learning to read to reading to learn. A good example we found from classroom instruction to the MEAP was the question: What is the distance between these two points? Teachers in class would use the phrase, 'how far apart' instead of distance. So while students in class could perform the operation, when it came to the MEAP, they couldn't interpret the word 'distance.' When large scale assessment authors get together to write questions, they start with the content expectations or standards and use the language that is included. So our students need to know the vocabulary that is included within those standards."

Chorley, along with Math/Science Coordinator **Matt Lobban**, Language Arts/Social Studies Coordinator **Janey McGlashen** and School Improvement Coordinator **Angie Hards** are leading professional development (PD) ses-



Just a wee bit o' Irish ...

Bus Driver Jeff Oaks unleashes his inner Irish as he prepares to deliver students safely to their destinations on St. Patrick's Day. Hmmm—makes one wonder if Jeff's route includes Irish Road?

Photo/Tracy Bennett

sions on the topic of Academic Vocabulary. Davison staff members attend three one-hour sessions during the school year.

“This helps us keep it on the front burner, rather than a one and done PD that we never come back to,” Chorley said. “By doing it at each building, we are trying to create some continuity among all staff and get everyone on the same page.”

Chorley explained there are three tiers of vocabulary. Tier 1 are words used every day (that, or, and, etc.). Tier 2 words are more academic, but can span subject levels (analyze, summarize, simplify, differentiate). Tier 3 words are specific to an academic area (polynomial is specific to math, thesis statement is specific to English Language Arts).

Davison staff members pick out words to use in specific vocabulary instruction through the district’s Advisory Curriculum Council (ACC) process. The Advisory Curriculum Council is made up of teachers, coordinators, administrators and a board of education member and meets regularly throughout the school year to determine and evaluate curriculum and materials. The group also studies and recommends what textbooks and curriculum materials should be purchased each year.

At the Academic Vocabulary professional development sessions, district coordinators are sharing Robert Marzano’s “Six-Step” vocabulary instruction as a possible method to teaching students vocabulary successfully. A leading researcher in education, Marzano is cofounder and CEO of Marzano Research in Colorado and is a speaker, trainer and author of more than 30 books and 150 articles.

Following the District Accreditation renewal process last year, Academic Vocabulary became one of three areas of focus for the district. Formative assessments and data dialogue—topics that will be addressed in future “Learn the Lingo” articles— are the other two areas.

It was through the school improvement process that Hill Elementary staff also began addressing common vocabulary objectives. Each week, the school celebrates a WOW (Word of the Week) selected by a class. The word and its definition are shared in newsletters, posters outside classroom doors and in sentences written by students read during the daily announcements. Principal **Jennifer Torok** said the WOW program has been in practice for about the last four years.

Alumni News ...

All-state track athlete **Jordann McDermitt** (Class of 2014) broke the Eastern Michigan University 5000m school record recently by running 16:27. Breaking a school record is great, but doing it as a freshman is incredible.

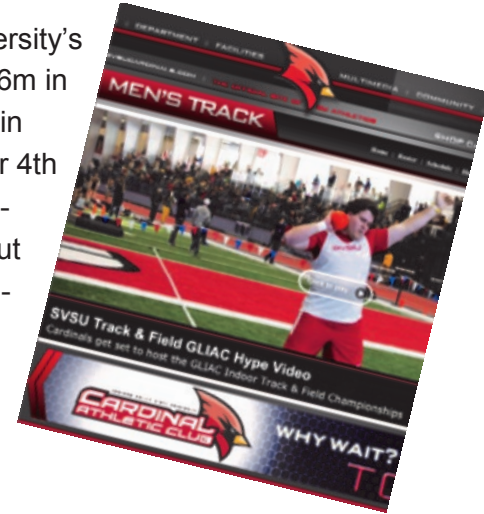


Math/Science Coordinator Matt Lobban discusses Academic Vocabulary with Hahn and Davison Middle School teachers and staff at a professional development session held earlier this month.
Photo/Eric Chorley

Here is the article link from the EMU website: http://www.emueagles.com/news/2015/2/6/WTRACK_0206154359.aspx?path=wtrack

Emily Lindsay (Class of 2011) finished her very successful basketball career at Kalamazoo College with the following stats: 1,006 points, a school record 203 three-point shots, 80% shooting record from the free throw line and played in 99 games, starting 97 of them, and her team had its second best season ever.

Nicholas Halabicky (Class of 2011) is featured on the Saginaw Valley State University's Men's Track website. Last season, Nick set an indoor career-best distance of 14.46m in shot put at the SVSU-GVSU Dual where he took second place. He also competed in weight throw at the SVSU-GVSU Dual, setting a career-high distance of 15.82m for 4th place and took 18th at the GLIAC Indoor Championships in weight throw with a distance of 15.74m. In outdoor competition, Nick performed his season-best in shot put at the Al Owen's Classic, where he threw a distance of 14.31m and took 5th. He recorded a career-best hammer throw in the GLIAC Outdoor Championships, taking 16th with a distance of 47.0m and placed 20th at the Ernie Mousseau Classic in discus with a distance of 38.82m, good for another career-best.



Novak named JV Golf Coach of the Year

Congratulations to DHS Teacher and JV Golf Coach **Joe Novak**, who is a recipient of the Michigan Interscholastic Golf Coaches Association (MIGCA) JV/Assistant Coach of the Year for the 2014 season. Novak and eight other coaches from around the state were selected for the award for the vital role they play in the development of high school golf programs and student athletes. The Coaches of the Year were announced at the MIGCA's Hall of Fame ceremony held Sunday, March 8.

DHS Counselor Dr. Jason Vannest to appear on Newsmaker

Be sure to watch DHS Counselor **Jason Vannest** as he is interviewed on ABC-12's "Newsmaker." The 30-minute talk show airs at noon Sunday on WJRT-TV 12.

Dr. Vannest will answer questions about the role high school counselors play in assisting students as they navigate the financial realities of attending college. He will address questions such as does a student select a school first and then figure out how to pay for it or vice versa as well as what our counselors in Davison do to assist students—such as coordinating the annual FAFSA Fair and encouraging students to apply for the numerous local scholarships that are available to Davison students.



Where's Louie?

It happens this time every year ... that mischievous Louie the Leprechaun visits Thomson Elementary on St. Patrick's Day and leaves his little green footprints all over the place! Students set traps and searched for the little guy but he was nowhere to be found!

Photos/Natalie Miller

