



A Review of the  
Great Things  
Happening in  
Our Schools.

# Building Beat

March 11, 2015

## Upcoming ...

**Wednesday, March 11:**  
Central Book Fair

Hahn/DMS Book Fair

Hahn Parent Teacher  
Conferences, 4-7 p.m.

**Thursday, March 12:**  
Central Book Fair

Central Family Reading  
Night, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Hill Elementary Parent  
Teacher Conferences,  
5-7 p.m.

Thomson "Wear a Jogging/  
Running Suit" for Reading  
Month

**Friday, March 13:**  
District Jean Day to benefit  
United Way

Davison Alternative  
Education End of Second  
Trimester; 1/2 day for DAE  
students ONLY

Central Book Fair

Central "Drop Everything  
and Read" for Reading  
Month

Gates "Reading Jogs the  
Imagination" Wear Sweats  
for Reading Month

Hill Spirit Day with  
Humphrey for Reading  
Month

## Six (yes 6! ) music groups earn Superior I ratings at District

Six **Davison High School** and **Middle School instrumental music groups** earned Superior (1) ratings at the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) District III Festival. The festival was held Friday, March 6, and Saturday, March 7, at Davison High School.

Davison High School had four groups competing: **String Orchestra, Concert Band, Symphonic Orchestra and Wind Ensemble**. DHS Instrumental Music Director **James Schuster** said Davison was only one of two schools with four ensembles and the only one to get all Superior ratings. Students now qualify to perform at the State MSBOA Festival April 27-May 2.

Davison Middle School's **8th Grade Cardinal Band**, directed by **James Bronson**, and the **8th Grade Symphony Orchestra**, directed by **John Marttila**, also earned Superior (1) ratings.

Bronson noted that one of the judges even remarked: *"Davison has a tremendous Instrumental Music Program. I have never heard of six ensembles from the same school district receiving straight I's before. This is probably a first in the State of Michigan. This is amazing --- and well-deserved."*

"Jim Schuster, John Marttila and I are very proud of our students for their hard work, dedication, talent, and, of course, their great performances," Bronson said.

"We do have a pretty good music program," said Schuster, who took to Twitter to share his sentiments: "[@DavisonSchools](#) it was an awesome weekend. Thank you for everyone who made this possible. Very proud director."

Musical ensembles from all over the mid-Michigan area attended and performed both in a concert setting and in sight reading. Professional musicians served as judges to evaluate, comment on, and rate each Band and Orchestra at the Festival.

## Choirs perform well at Festival and Solo & Ensemble

There's even more good news to sing about on the music front. The **DHS Choralaires** received a first division rating of an "Excellent" and **DHS Varsity Choir** received their first ever "Superior" rating at the Vocal Music Festival held February 26 at the Swartz Creek High School Performing Arts Center. DHS Choir Director **Jennifer Orkisz** said one of the judges gave the group a perfect score.

Where futures begin

A Fully Accredited District

At Davison Middle School, the **Music Masters** and **Cardinal Singers** both qualified for the State Festival by earning excellent ratings. They will travel to Walled Lake High School for that event in late April, said DMS Choral Director **Michelle Wilson**.

Singers from both schools also performed at Solo and Ensemble festival on Saturday, Jan 31. The middle school brought 30 events, more than any other participating school. All resulted in Excellent or Good ratings and two events received Superior ratings: the Cardinal Men Quartet (**Jacob July, Donald Rutledge, Bradley Skellenger** and **Peyton Sparks**), and **Chloe La-Fave Hale**, who received a perfect score.

Davison High School sent six events and four—**Deanna Leach, Alena Baker, Ellarie Prince** and **Paige Guest**—qualified for state competition.

## Students, staff read with One School One Book

Several elementary buildings have kicked off their One School One Book reading programs where all students and staff read the same book.



At Gates Elementary, students are reading “Masterpiece,” by Elise Broach. The book is a mystery about stolen art, miniature worlds, and the surprising friendship between a talented beetle, Marvin, and a lonely 11-year-old boy named James.

“Students have commented that they are enjoying the book and learning about drawing and art,” said Principal **Theresa Wendt**. “This annual event has become a great way to get good books in front of students and families.”

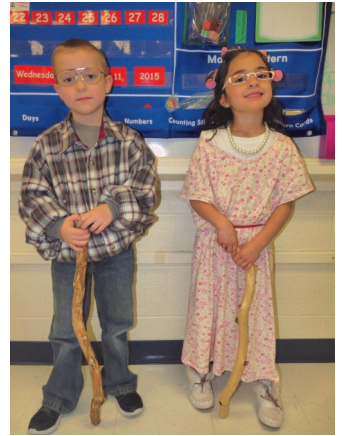
Thomson Elementary and GSRP students and staff are reading “The Mitten” by Jan Brett and kicked off their One School One Book campaign at Family Reading Night held February 26.

Hill Elementary students and staff are reading “The World According to Humphrey” by Betty G. Birney. The book follows the adventures of a classroom pet hamster named Humphrey. Staff kicked off the reading celebration with a school assembly Friday, Feb. 28, where staff members (right) dressed up to look like Humphrey!



**Getting into character ...** Hahn Intermediate Teacher Dave Clifford celebrates Family Fun Night at Hahn Intermediate. The theme, if you haven't already guessed, was “Under the Sea.” The event was held last Thursday evening.





## Celebrating 100 Days

Whether it was dressing like a 100-year-old or helping to polish off 100 pancakes, students at Central, Hill and Thomson Elementary buildings recently celebrated the 100th day of school in fine fashion.

