



A Review of the
Great Things
Happening in
Our Schools.

Building Beat

October 12, 2013

Upcoming ...

Monday, Oct. 15:

Thomson PTO Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

MEAP Makeup for
Reading or Writing

Tuesday, Oct. 16:

Flu Shot Clinic, 2-5 p.m.
DHS Athletic Meeting
Room

MEAP Testing; Math
Students grades 3-8

Troubadours visit
Thomson Elementary

Thomson Curriculum
Night, 4:30-6 p.m.

Central PTO meeting,
6 p.m. Room 125

Wednesday, Oct 17:

MEAP Testing

Writing Day 2, Grades 3-8
Science, Grades 5 & 8
Social Studies, Grades 6 &
9

Thursday, Oct. 18:

DHS National Honor
Society Inductions,
7 p.m. Auditorium

Friday, Oct. 19:

Summer Reading
Challenge Pizza Lunch,
Central Elementary

DEF Great Pumpkin 5K Run/Walk this Saturday

It's not too late to enter the Davison Educational Foundation's annual Great Pumpkin 5K Run/Walk scheduled for this Saturday. Participants can register on race day beginning at 7:30 a.m. at Cardinal Stadium. All proceeds from the race go to benefit activities funded by the DEF including classroom mini grants and the Professional Scholar Award. A special thanks to **Mark Ragnone** (Teacher/DHS) and his Key Club volunteers who will be helping out at this year's race.

DHS Marching Band takes third at weekend competition

Congratulations to the Davison High School Cardinal Marching Band, which performed at the Brandon Scholastic Marching Band Competition this weekend. The Band placed third out of nine, with a score of 78.9. Excellent job!

Girls' Cross Country Team are Genesee County champs

The Davison Girls' Cross Country team placed first in Division I last week and were the overall Genesee County Champions at the Greater Flint Area Cross Country Championships. The meet has been run annually since 1984, and this is the first time ever that the Davison girls have won the overall championship. First Team All County runners are: **Jordann McDermitt, Amanda George, Torey Ostrander** and **Casey Shafer**. Second Team All County runners are: **Elise Close** and **Shelby Roesner**. Congratulations girls!

It's easy being green at Davison Schools ...

Thanks to great staff members who are committed to saving our environment, there are plenty of opportunities to recycle the following items.

Batteries: **Jody Kosiara** (Teacher/Middle School) collects used household batteries. Students are encouraged to place them in her front room battery box. Last year, Mrs. Kosiara collected over four boxes full of batteries.

DHS Auto Lab: **Andy Michalik** (Teacher/High School) and his auto students accept used oil and batteries.

Pop can tabs: **Linda Stevens** (Paraprofessional/Gates) collects these as part of a program that began with her son, Chris, a 2003 DHS graduate who is now in the Navy.

Where futures begin

A Fully Accredited District

Introducing teachers new to Davison this school year

Welcome to our new teachers. We are fortunate they have joined the DCS family for the 2012-13 school year:

Brandi Adams is teaching English at Davison High School. She has a bachelor's of science degree from Central Michigan University. "I have a passion for literature and I enjoy opening up the exciting world of literature to my students," she said. "Also, I want to prepare students to be effective readers and writers for their future role in society." Brandi enjoys Tigers baseball, camping, hiking, being outdoors, reading and live music.



Brandi

Amanda Barrett is teaching second grade at Gates Elementary. She has a master's degree in K-12 literacy, elementary education and an early childhood endorsement from the University of Michigan-Flint. "I have always had a love of and enthusiasm for teaching," she said. "I find joy in the success of students and every day I have the opportunity to inspire, change and educate young people. Amanda and her husband, Kevin, have two sons, Jacob and Alex. Dog, Remington, is also a part of the family. Amanda enjoys camping, scrapbooking and reading.



Amanda

Bart Blanchard is teaching fourth grade at Gates Elementary. He has a bachelor of arts in education from Western Michigan University and a master's in elementary education from Wayne State University. "I love working with people and doing something different each day that makes a difference," he said. Bart and his wife, Carrie, have a daughter, Maren, and are expecting a child in November. The family also has two beagle dogs, Baxter and Riley. Bart enjoys hockey, volleyball, softball, photography and going to the movies.



Bart

Lauren Draper is teaching math and Spanish at Davison High School. She has a bachelor of art degree with a major in Spanish and a minor in math from Michigan State University. "I wanted to make a positive impact on the lives of students just like I watched my mom do for many years," Lauren said. Lauren's parents are Bill and Leigh Anne (Leigh Anne teaches fourth grade at Hill Elementary) and her sister is Cari. She enjoys running, reading, traveling and spending time with family and friends.



Lauren

Sarah Driskill is teaching kindergarten at Thomson Elementary. She has a bachelor of science degree in elementary education with minors in language arts and social studies and an early childhood endorsement from the University of Michigan-Flint. "I feel I was born to teach and can't imagine any other job," she said. "I love working with kids." Sarah and her husband, Michael, have two children, Michaela and Evan. Sarah enjoys spending time with family and friends.



Sarah

Crystal Holland is teaching kindergarten at Thomson Elementary. She has a bachelor of arts degree from Michigan State University and a master of arts degree from the University of Phoenix. "I have a passion for working with children and helping to prepare them for the future," she said. Crystal is married and has two children and a dog. She enjoys arts and crafts, traveling up north with family and spending time outside.



Crystal

Megan Kellie is a Great Start Readiness Program teacher at Thomson Elementary. She has a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education with an early education endorsement from Saginaw Valley State University. “I love children and feel I am at my best when I am around them,” she said. “Teaching is what I was meant to do.” Megan’s family includes her parents, Laird and Mona Kellie of Lapeer, and her dog, Lucy. She enjoys traveling, walking, Zumba and spending time with friends and family.



Megan

Kristen Kirchner is teaching third graders in the CAP (Challenging Academic Potential) program at Central Elementary. She has bachelors of art and science degrees from Western Michigan University and is currently enrolled in the master’s in educational technology program. “I love children and didn’t know if I would ever be blessed with my own,” she said. “As a teacher, I get to be many things—a learner, a leader, a mom, a counselor, an actress, a cheerleader and much more.” Kristen and her husband Brad (DHS Class of 1994) have two infant children and four dogs (all rescues). Kristen loves yoga, Starbucks coffee, spending time with family and traveling.



Megan

Lisa LeMieux is teaching kindergarten at Thomson Elementary. She has a bachelor of arts degree in marketing and management from Northwood University and a master’s in education from the University of Michigan-Flint. “I decided to become a teacher because I am fascinated by child development,” she said. “I enjoy working with children and being a part of their educational and social growth.” Lisa has a daughter, Sidney, and a son, Alec. They also have a poodle named Lucy. She enjoys reading, Tigers baseball and traveling.



Lisa

Leandra Lints is teaching kindergarten at Thomson Elementary. She has a degree in elementary education from the University of Michigan-Flint and will be completing her master’s degree from Nova Southeastern University in December. “I became a teacher because I love children,” she said. “My students bring joy to my life and always keep me on my toes.” Leandra and her husband, Scott, have four children, Christian, Kennedy, Cameron and Lyndi. In her free time, Leandra enjoys running and participating in adventure races. She also spends a lot of time attending her children’s soccer, baseball and football games.



Leandra

Benjamin Montgomery is teaching second graders in the CAP program at Central Elementary. He has a bachelor of science degree and an early childhood endorsement from Baker College of Flint. “I am driven to provide another strong male role model for early elementary students,” he said. Benjamin is married to Tammy. He enjoys reading, technology in education, hiking, golf and photography.



Ben

Andrea Nyquist is teaching first grade at Siple Elementary. She has a bachelor of science degree in elementary education from the University of Michigan-Flint. “My teachers were always so caring and wanted the very best for their students,” she said. “I knew one day I wanted children to feel the same about me as an educator. Making a difference in a child’s life is my life-long goal.” Andrea was born and raised in Flushing with her family, parents, Ken and Kim and brother, Brett. She has two special dogs in her life, Denver and Lacie. Andrea enjoys bowling, playing softball, reading novels, swimming and boating.



Andrea

Carolyn Proctor is teaching kindergarten at Thomson Elementary. She has a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education from the University of Michigan. “I have wanted to be a teacher for as long as I can remember,” she said. “My first experiences teaching music classes at the age of 16 confirmed that I wanted to study teaching at university. I love teaching because each day provides an opportunity for me to learn alongside my students as I teach them the skills necessary to succeed.” Carolyn’s family includes her parents, an older brother, younger sister and a yellow Lab. She loves music and has played the piano since she was 5 years old. She also enjoys spending time outdoors running, snowboarding, waterskiing and playing beach volleyball. She also loves watching football.



Carolyn

Mark Ragnone is teaching English at Davison High School. He has a bachelor of arts degree in English with a minor in history and a teaching degree in the same fields. “I decided to become a teacher because of my love of learning and my passion to share what I have learned with others,” he said. “Also, from the wonderful experience I had in Mr. Hall’s 10th and 11th grade English class at Kearsley High School.” Mark has been married to the “love of his life,” Jennifer Amble, for the past two years. They have two spoiled rotten cats. Mark said he would like to thank his parents, Mark and Pam Ragnone, Lucinda and Richard St. Martin and Kim and Bob Amble for their love, support and sage advice for, without them, he would not be where he is today. Mark and his wife are students at PKSA Karate. He also enjoys practicing his cooking skills, curling up with a great book or relaxing with his wife and family.



Mark

Amy Renye is an EI teacher at Hahn Intermediate. She has a bachelor of arts degree in special education with endorsements in emotional and cognitive impairments from Grand Valley State University. “When I was younger I had the opportunity to work with students with special needs and this experience showed me how rewarding of a career teaching is,” she said. Amy and her husband, Chris, welcomed their first child, Harson, earlier this year. German shepherd Syren is also a part of the family. Amy enjoys spending time with her family at their cabin, boating and kayaking.



Carolyn

Leisa Robertson is teaching kindergarten at Hill Elementary. She has attended Florida State University, Florida International University and Baker College and has a bachelor of science degree in elementary education and post baccalaureate degrees in early childhood and English Language Learners (ELL). “It is my mission to encourage, inspire and ignite the love of learning in my students,” she said. “I have been teaching for many years and my passion has not waived.” Leisa is from Florida, where most of her extended family still lives. She and her husband, Matthew, have two children, Iaan and Lindsay. The entire family is very involved in the Grand Blanc band program. Leisa is actively involved in music and theater programs and enjoys sharing her passion for the arts with her students.



Leisa

Michael Romanik is teaching elementary music at Thomson and Central. He has a bachelor’s in music education from Michigan State University. “I’ve loved learning and helping others learn my entire life,” he said. “The more I teach, I find that I especially enjoy teaching children when they are younger and as excited about learning as I am. Music is my other passion so being a music educator is a natural and highly satisfying career choice.” Michael’s parents, sister, brother-in-law and the rest of his family live in southeast Michigan where he grew up. Since they are all fairly close, he finds himself spending a lot of time visiting them in Macomb County. In his spare time, Michael enjoys music, running, reading, basketball, playing games and spending time with friends and family.



Michael

Jenna Stegall is teaching kindergarten at Siple Elementary. She has a bachelor of science degree in education from Central Michigan University. "I became a teacher because I love learning and I love being able to inspire children to love learning," she said. "My passion is teaching." Jenna is married to Mark. They have a cockapoo dog named Lola. Jenna loves to be outdoors and playing sports like basketball, kickball, volleyball and going out on the family boat. She also enjoys spending time with her family, reading and listening to music.



Jenna

Ondrea Sumner is teaching kindergarten at Hill Elementary. She has a bachelor of science degree in education and early childhood endorsement from Baker College of Flint. "I just want to make a difference in the lives of children," she said. "I want to see them grow into wonderful adults. I will cry with them, laugh with them and learn with and from them. What can be better than that?" Ondrea and her husband, Alan, have a son, Garrett, and daughter, Charley. The family also includes furry friends Chewy and Louie. Ondrea enjoys spending time with family and friends and loves watching her son play hockey and her daughter perform at gymnastic meets. She also enjoys gardening and being outside.



Ondrea

Rachel Taylor is teaching kindergarten at Siple Elementary. She has a degree in elementary education with minors in math and language arts. "I love teaching because of the joy I get seeing a child's face light up when he or she learns a new concept," she said. Rachel's family includes mom, Julie Whitman, who works as a paraprofessional at Siple Elementary, and a younger sister and brother. Her hobbies include softball, volleyball, anything to do with the outdoors, scrapbooking, reading and spending time with family and friends.



Rachel

Emily Tritten is teaching kindergarten at Thomson Elementary. She has an elementary education degree with an early childhood endorsement from Michigan State University. "I enjoy working with children and helping them do their very best inside and out of the classroom," she said. Emily enjoys playing volleyball and badminton, and spending time with family and friends.



Emily

Kara Vergison is teaching first grade at Siple Elementary. She has an elementary education degree with minors in mathematics and social studies from Saginaw Valley State University. "I decided to become a teacher because I love seeing students have that 'light bulb' moment and how proud they are that they finally got the concept." Kara's family includes mom, Carri, brothers Daniel and Chris and sister-in-law Katie (married to Chris). The family dog is Rocky. Carri has danced tap, ballet and jazz for more than 20 years. She also enjoys scrapbooking, traveling and spending time with her family (especially her mom!).



Kara

Ryan Welch is teaching physical education at Hill Elementary. He earned his degree in physical education and health from Grand Valley State University. Ryan decided to become a teacher "to make a positive impact in the lives of children through instruction and being a positive male role model." Ryan's family includes parents, Vicki and Kevin, and brothers, Ben and Dylan. He enjoys hockey, baseball, golf, reading and relaxing at the beach.



Ryan

Rachel Wheaton is teaching kindergarten at Thomson Elementary. She has an elementary education degree with an early childhood endorsement from Baker College of Flint. Rachel became a teacher to "make the first impression of school positive and to help children learn to succeed in and out of school." Rachel's family includes parents Tammy Wheaton and Dan and Alice Wheaton. She enjoys camping, spending time with family and watching little league sports.

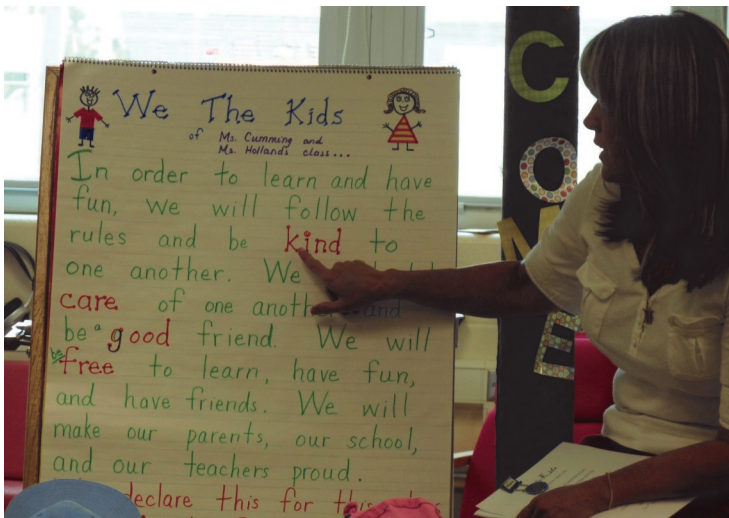


Rachel



We the kids ...

Students in Pam Cummings' kindergarten classroom at Thomson Elementary signed their own Constitution as part of Constitution Day celebrated on September 17. The occasion was marked with each student receiving a very special "feathered" writing utensil to officially sign their name.



Elementary counselor completes first marathon

Gates and Thomson Elementary Counselor **Christine Glann** completed her first marathon last weekend. Christine finished the 26.2-mile Chicago Marathon in four hours and 24 minutes.

“The marathon...in one word.....INCREDIBLE!” she said. “It was such a rush to accomplish something that I had never dreamed I was capable of ever doing. The streets of Chicago were packed with people for 26.2 miles. Crowds were cheering; music was playing; signs were inspiring--- I smiled; I laughed; I cried; I smiled, laughed and cried some more....then I looked up and there was the FINISH line.”

Christine started running seven years ago when she decided to run her first Crim. She says it is great therapy and runs three to five miles each time she runs, which is five days a week. She has also participated in the Parcel for the Park, the Warrior Dash, Race for Chase and the DEF Great Pumpkin Run.

The Chicago marathon was “*the race*” that Christine has always wanted to participate in but she added that running the Boston Marathon would be pretty cool, too.

“But you have to have a really fast time to qualify and I’m not sure that will happen,” Christine said.

Christine said that people who run are naturally happy because it releases endorphins and frees your mind from stress. She hopes that her dedication inspires her students and others.

“I just keep thinking about how much I want my marathon to be an inspiration to my students that you can accomplish anything you set your mind to,” Christine said. “ You've got to really want it, and work really hard to get it no matter how tough it gets along the road to the finish line. The pain is temporary. Finishing is forever.”



Christine Glann at the Chicago Marathon last weekend.

DMS teachers complete another summer hiking trip



Davison Middle School Teachers **Michelle McKinnon**, **Jody Kosiara** and **Susie McCatty** set out on another girls' hiking trip over the summer. This time, the trio traveled to Yosemite, CA, where they hiked Half Dome, one of the most prominent peaks in the park. Their total round trip mileage was 22.5 miles and they were on the trail with headlamps until about 3 a.m.

The ladies visited Curry Village for a portion of the trip and traveled to the high Sierras and Tuolumne Meadows.

Michelle, Susie and Jody stop for a picture during one of their hikes.