

# Board Briefs

## Hill Blueberry Ambassadors introduce "Buddy Benches"

Students feeling left out or in need of a friend can find instant kindness by taking a seat on the bright blue bench situated on their school playground.

Six "Buddy Benches" were donated by the Hill Blueberry Ambassadors student group to each elementary school in the district and Hahn Intermediate School. The official presentation was made at last week's Board of Education meeting.

"This bench will be coming to your playground soon," Principal **Jennifer Torok** told her fellow principals. "The idea is that if other people see a student sitting on the buddy bench then (fellow classmates) have to come up and ask them if they want to play. It's supposed to be a friendly and safe place to go."

The Blueberry Ambassadors are part of a large group of students within Genesee County (including most of our very own Davison schools!) who are committed to performing random acts of kindness as part of a program started several years ago by Flint area

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Hill Elementary Principal Jennifer Torok and After-school Clubs Coordinator Tracy Bennett join students belonging to the school's Blueberry Ambassadors program in presenting "Buddy Benches." The benches will be placed on the playgrounds at all of the district's elementary schools and Hahn Intermediate.

**D**avison Community Schools

Where Kids Come First and Futures Begin

Connections ♦ Curriculum ♦ Opportunities



### Board accepts contributions

Board members gratefully accepted the following contributions:

- Davison City Manager **Michael Hart** donated a 35mm camera with accessories to the DHS Photography/Digital Imaging classroom and a music stand to the DHS Choir classroom for students to use.
- **Dennis and Deborah Knopf** generously donated an Electronic Magnification System valued at \$2000 to the district's Special Education Department. This instrument magnifies type font so that students with visual impairments can better see the material.
- Siple Elementary received multiple boxes of children's books valued at over \$100 from an **anonymous donor**. The books will be provided to the students.

- **Keith Koppmeier and Corporate Services** on behalf of the **Lake Trust Credit Union** in

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Board Briefs is a monthly newsletter published the day after Board of Education meetings. For additional information, please contact the Communications Department at 591-0852.



## Leading the Pledge

*Hahn Heroes from Hahn Intermediate led the Pledge of Allegiance at the December Board of Education meeting. The students were accompanied by Principal Verle Gilbert and Teacher sponsor Tara Hendrix.*

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Brighton donated 30 office chairs to DTV for use in their lab and studio.

- The **GM Flint North American Tooling Center** (NATC) donated two Bridgeport mills and a Marvel bandsaw to the DHS First Robotics Competition Team 3534, House of Cards. This generous donation was made to support STEM education and FIRST Robotics at DHS. These tools will provide a unique learning opportunity for students regarding the manufacturing processes used in the creation of their competition robots. The House of Cards will benefit from the tools by creating a more capable robotics build lab which

will help attract students and mentors to the growing program.

- Davison Community Schools' parent **April Eckles** generously donated \$500 to Hill Elementary to help provide support to students and programs within the school.
- **The Davison Community Fund** donated a \$950 grant from the **Justin M. Jury** and **Sherri E. Stephens Funds** to build a greenhouse for Hahn Intermediate students who participate annually in the Community Garden.

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businessman Phil Shaltz and Mlive. Last year, the Hill Elementary Blueberry Ambassadors won the \$1,000 "Reader's Choice" award and were charged with using their winnings for projects that would help them continue in their mission of "paying it forward."

Torok said the students were very involved in the process—from painting their handprints to deciding on the quote, "*The only way to have a friend is to be one,*" to be placed on each bench.

The benches were made by Chuck Valentine, father of Hill Elementary kindergarten teacher Ondrea Sumner. Mrs. Sumner painted the benches.

To learn more about the Buddy Benches, watch this video, produced by DTV, featuring our beautiful Blueberry Ambassadors from Hill explaining what the Buddy Bench is all about: <http://www.nfhsnetwork.com/.../davison-high-school.../248629de28>



# Presentations

## DECA and DTV students team up to lead Cool to Care campaign

We are so proud to announce that, once again, the students, staff and families of Davison Community Schools broke a record in our annual Cool to Care campaign. This year, we collected an amazing total of 35,714 items (taking into account that each \$1 collected equals two cans). That is 1,949 more items than last year's record-breaking collection. All of these items were delivered Wednesday, December 10, to Outreach East, where they will be disseminated to local families in need of assistance.

Congratulations to Hill Elementary, the winner of the district competition for collecting the most items per capita. This little school with a big heart collected a total of 10,400 items. That is a ratio of a whopping 37 items per student!

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all of our staff members who played a part in the success of this year's campaign. Whether they issued a challenge to their students in their classrooms (promising pizzas and class cookie decorating), pledged Pistons tickets to the top contributor at their school or got themselves involved in a promise that will require them to dress up as the Baby New Year (by the way, if anyone knows where you can get an adult-sized cloth diaper, please contact Central Elementary Principal Lance Harper!), every single one of their efforts are very much appreciated.

A special thanks to DTV students **Merek Alam**, **Trace Clinton** and **Cain Pedersen** and DECA students **Mycaela Barden**, **Jackie Lockwood** and



**Board of Education members Larry Finkbeiner and Kim Lindsay look on as Davison High School students Merek Alam, Cain Pedersen, Jackie Lockwood, Lauren Old and Mycaela Barden share details of this year's Cool to Care campaign.**

**Lauren Old** for serving as the student leaders for this year's campaign. The kids came up with some amazing public service announcements, made a marvelous presentation at the Board of Education meeting and kept the students motivated.

A HUGE shout out also goes to the entire **DTV crew**, **Randy Scott**, bus drivers **Josh Rhinebolt** and **Alex Verhaeghe**, and **Kathy Morris** for their enthusiasm and hard work (and it is a lot of work loading and unloading five busloads of items!). Without them this annual project would not be possible.

And last but certainly not least, a sincere thank you to our students, staff, parents and community for supporting this initiative. We heard about some pretty friendly competitions among classrooms and we appreciate your generous and spirited donations!



**These Gates Elementary students were in charge of organizing and tallying the donated items at their school.**



**Hill Elementary fourth graders help load the 10,000+ items they collected onto the buses during the Cool to Care collection on December 10.**