



### Donations accepted

The following contributions were graciously accepted:

- **Kipp Stewart, Stewart & Associates Insurance** made a financial donation to the DCER Youth Basketball program to help cover the costs of T-shirts.

### Robotics team trips approved

Board members granted approval for up to three overnight field trips for the Team 3534 House of Cards Robotics Team competitions, each contingent on success at each level. The first trip will be to Districts on April 5-7 in Marysville, Mich. The State competition will be held April 11-14 at Saginaw Valley State University and the World competition takes place April 25-28 in Detroit. Approximately 40 students from the club plan to attend.

## Unified Champs peer mentoring is proof that kindness matters

Lots of laughs and high fives are the typical start to Wednesday mornings at Davison High School for members of the Unified Champions Club. The peer-to-peer group is made up of general education and special education students who meet up weekly to participate in group games, activities and projects. General education peers model typical academic and social behavior and provide support to students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) to promote independence and socialization.

"It is important for every student to feel included at their school and this is a wonderful way for students to do just that," said **Holly Halabicky**, Executive Director of Student Services. "We want every single student to know they have a friend."

Unified Champions members **Grace** and **Libby Olsen** and **Brendan Biazza**, accompanied by sponsors DHS Teacher **Brett Coron** and Social Worker **Melissa Biazza**, shared about the club's efforts in creating a more welcoming and accepting environment in the school at the March 5 Board of Education meeting.

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**Social Worker Melissa Biazza and DHS Teacher Brett Coron accompany Unified Champions club members Brendan Biazza, Libby Olsen and Grace Olsen at the March Board of Education meeting.**

**D**avison Community Schools

**Where Kids Come First and Futures Begin**

*Connections ♦ Curriculum ♦ Opportunities*

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

# Board briefs

# Presentations

## Siple Teacher Sue Will named “Kids First” March recipient

**Sue Will**, who teaches cognitively impaired students at Siple Elementary, is the March 2018 recipient of the “Kids First” Award.

Each month, administrators nominate a DCS employee who best exemplifies what it means to be “Kids First.” Winners receive a \$100 Visa gift card thanks to Mark Owen, owner of MEEMIC insurance agencies in Davison and Flint Township, and a certificate. The winner is chosen at random.

Ms. Will was nominated by Siple Elementary Principal **Christy Flowers**, who wrote:

“Sue Will teaches in the kindergarten through 2nd grade Cognitively Impaired special education classroom at Siple Elementary. That may sound like a simple thing, but it is a big job that requires patience, loads of energy and a sense of humor on the tough days.

“Sue creates individual goals and lessons for every child every day. Her students have special physical, educational, social and emotional needs that must all be considered, planned for and accommodated for daily.

“Sue diligently assesses and gets to know her students so well

she can tell me exactly what each child can already do and what they are working on. No matter what these precious children throw at her, Sue gives back more love and more patience. She’ll leave school at the end of the day exhausted, but return the next day with fresh determination and a smile. That is one of her Teacher Super Powers! I proudly nominate Sue Will for the Kids First Award for believing in giving every child the best opportunities possible!”

Other great DCS staff members nominated this month for the Kids First award were: Davison High School Teacher **Matt Ames**, Davison Middle School Challenge Coordinator **Dana Bougie**, Thomson Elementary Teacher **Amy Chorley**, Bus Driver **Catherine Curl**, Cardinal Center Secretary **Sharon Hazard**, Central Elementary Teacher **Andrea McDunnah**, Davison High School Head Custodian **Josh Rhinebolt**, Davison Alternative Education Secretary **Terri Schall** and Hill Elementary Challenge Coordinator **Amy Walker**.



Left to right, Siple Elementary Principal Christy Flowers, Siple Elementary Teacher Sue Will, Superintendent Eric Lieske and Board of Education President Kathy Sudia.





# Presentations

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## Vannest honored with prestigious Caring Adult award

School Counselor Dr. Rebecca Vannest was presented with the Roy E. Peterson Caring Adult Award at the March Board of Education meeting. Dr. Vannest was supposed to receive the award at the 21st Annual Priority Children's Champion Awards Breakfast last month—and was on her way to the event—when she became ill and her husband, Jason, ended up changing course and took Rebecca to the emergency room instead. Thankfully, everything turned out alright but Rebecca was so disappointed she had to miss the event. The folks at Priority Children were eager to assist though and graciously agreed to present Rebecca with the award right here in Davison. Pictured above are: Davison High School Principal Sue Kenkel, Dr. Rebecca Vannest, Priority Children's Board of Directors Chair Roxanne Caine, Superintendent Eric Lieske and Board President Kathy Sudia.

## New Board Member takes Oath of Office

The Honorable 67th District Court Judge Mark Latchana administers the Oath of Office to Doug Theodoroff at the March 5 Board of Education meeting. Theodoroff was appointed to the newly opened seat that was vacated by Andrew Hall, who resigned in February due to personal reasons.





# Presentations



## Leading the Pledge

Davison Alternative Education students who represent the new “Principal’s Advisory Students (PAS) led the Pledge of Allegiance at the March 5 Board of Education meeting. These students represent their advisory class and meet once a month for a pizza luncheon to discuss relevant DAE topics of discussion with Principal Jerry Piger. These students are responsible for sharing the information with their advisory classes after the meetings. They become the student voice of DAE and take on a leadership role representing their student body. The students were accompanied by Principal Piger.





# Action Items

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## Purchase of parcel gets nod of approval from board members

The district is moving forward with plans to purchase a 1.16-acre parcel at the corner of Aloha and W. Flint streets.

"Anytime you can look at property adjacent to a school building that is available, especially to help with traffic flow, it needs to be considered," said Phil Thom, Director of Operations.

The vacant land, which is located next to Hill Elementary, is being purchased for \$35,000.

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The Unified Champions Club has been very active this school year. Members have gone bowling together and plan to participate in the Special Olympics Bowling Challenge for the first time ever this year. The group also decorated lockers with positive messages and randomly hands out business-card size kindness messages.

Last month, the club raised more than \$2,300 for the Special Olympics' annual Polar Plunge fundraiser.

"This group of students from DHS really took charge of this campaign to help a great cause and further the identity of the Unified Champions program started last year by some of these same student leaders," said Davison High School Principal **Sue Kenkel**. "They quickly realized the impact of their positive leadership when 15 students and staff agreed to take the plunge and they more than doubled the goal they had set for themselves. I am extremely proud of their leadership and passion to help bring respect and acceptance for everyone at Davison High School."

Thanks to the Club's efforts, guest speaker Anthony Ianni, a former Michigan State University basketball player who has overcome many challenges in his life including the hardships of having autism, will address the student body at Davison High School in April.



**Last month students raised money for Special Olympics at the annual Polar Plunge held on Lake Fenton.**