

Board Briefs



DECA students set, share goals for 2018 Cool to Care campaign

Davison High School marketing students organizing this year's Cool to Care campaign have set a lofty—but achievable—goal and are planning to collect 10 percent more than last year's record-breaking haul of 46,000 cans.

"At the high school, that equals about 5,700 cans which means about 3 1/2 cans per student," **Ellie Timmons**, Executive Vice President of the school's DECA chapter, told Board of Education members.

Joining Timmons in organizing this year's Cool to Care campaign are **Lorenzo Luna**, DECA President; **Jennifer Bloch**, Vice President of Competition; and **Blake Congdon**, Vice President of Operations. DECA is a student marketing group.

In addition to encouraging students and the community to donate canned goods, non perishable items and/or money to the Cool to Care program as in past years, Bloch, Congdon, Luna and Timmons have come up with some new ideas to generate support. In addition to cans, students will also now collect empty pop cans, with every 10 cans equaling two canned goods. Every \$1 raised will also equal two canned good items.

Students will also hold a canned food drop off event at VG's sometime during the last week of November.

The Cool to Care campaign is now underway and ends on Tuesday, December 4. All items will be delivered to Outreach East on Wednesday, Dec. 5.



DECA students Ellie Timmons, Lorenzo Luna, Jennifer Bloch and Blake Congdon present at the Board of Education meeting.

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



Donations gratefully accepted by Board

The following contributions were accepted at last night's meeting:

- **Freya Gibson** from Ontario, Canada, donated 30 hand-knitted hats to help keep students warm during the winter months.
- **Trinity Lutheran Quilters** donated 25 hand-made quilts to Davison students who could use the comfort of a warm quilt.
- **Holland Heating & Cooling** donated a \$300 gift card to Siple Elementary from Meijer to help families in need.
- **Josh Paul** donated tires, rims and a Dodge Hemi 5.7 Engine to the Automotive Technology Department to help support student education.

Davison Community Schools

Where Kids Come First and Futures Begin

Connections ♦ Curriculum ♦ Opportunities

Presentations

Thomson teacher Sara Howes named “Kids First” November recipient

Thomson Elementary Kindergarten Teacher **Sara Howes** is the November 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.

Sara was nominated by Thomson Elementary Principal **Natalie Miller**, who wrote:

“From the moment the students walk into the building until the last student leaves, they are the reason Sara is here. Sara’s dedication to all students, is unwavering. While it is very easy to work with and show interest in kids that come from ‘good’ families and those that are easy to teach, Sara holds a special place in her heart and classroom for those kids that others may shy away from due to their behavior or family situation. She understands kids and that each one needs and craves something different and she is willing to do whatever it takes to find out what that need is and to make school and, in turn, life better for them. Whether it is a daily communication with parents, a special meeting, or reaching out to staff members in order to support students, she goes above and beyond for kids.

“Additionally, Sara is a great contributor to the Davison education environment as a whole with impacts reaching far beyond her own classroom. Sara serves on several committees and in various capacities at both the building and district levels and she is always willing to help with the planning and implementation of family involvement activities. She also serves as a lab classroom teacher opening her classroom for observation by other teachers. These opportunities that she helps to provide for teachers are helping to change the educational experiences for students across the district.

“Kids truly are the reason Sara comes to work every day and why she is a successful teacher. The relationships she is building with her students and their parents will last long after the students leave Thomson Elementary. Sara is and always has been a ‘Kids First’ teacher and it is an honor to get to work with her every day!”

Other great DCS staff members who were nominated this month include: **Debbie Blankenship**, Food Services Secretary, Tammi Brandes, Cardinal Center Secretary, **Sue Malin**, Hahn Intermediate Head Cook, **Erin O’Connor**, Thomson Elementary Speech Pathologist, **David Peters**, Central Elementary Challenge Coordinator, **Alexis Schaepekens**, Hill Elementary Teacher, **Randy Schlak**, Davison Middle School Athletic Coordinator and **Ami Unger**, Siple Elementary Teacher



Left to right, Thomson Elementary Principal Natalie Miller, Thomson Elementary Teacher Sara Howes, Superintendent Eric Lieske and Board of Education President Kathy Sudia.



Presentations

National Merit Program® recognizes 3 DHS students

Three Davison High School students have been recognized by the 2019 National Merit® Scholarship Program.

Kaden Walworth has been named a Semi-Finalist while **Madeline Daunt** and **Brian Hall** have been recognized as Commended Students.

The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®)—which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.6 million entrants each year—and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements.

Madeline and Brian represent Davison High School among 34,000 students of the approximately 50,000 high scorers on the PSAT/NMSQT® to receive Letters of Commendation in recognition of their outstanding academic promise. Commended Students are named on the basis of a nationally applied Selection Index score that may vary from year to year and is typically below the level required for participants to be named Semifinalists in their respective states. Although Commended Students do not continue in the competition for National Merit® Scholarships, some of these students do become candidates for Special Scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses.

In September, Kaden was one of about 16,000 high school students notified of their qualification as a Semi-Finalist. To ensure that academically talented young people from all parts of the United States are included in this talent pool, Semi-finalists are designated on a state-representational basis. They are the highest scoring entrants in each state. NMSC provides scholarship application materials to Semi-finalists through their high schools. To be considered for a National Merit® Scholarship, Semi-finalists must advance to Finalist standing in the competition by meeting high academic standards and all other requirements explained in the infor-



Board of Education President Kathy Sudia, Superintendent Eric Lieske, DHS Counselor Betsy Wambaugh, Commended Student Brian Hall, Semi-Finalist Kaden Walworth and DHS Principal Sue Kenkel.

mation provided to each Semi-finalist. That should not be a problem for Kaden, who is currently enrolled in six Advanced Placement courses.

Kaden, the son of Corrine and Kevin Walworth, is a member of the National Honor Society and Student Council as well as the Varsity Tennis team. He plans on becoming an engineer. His top choices for college are Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Stanford, and the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor.

Madeline is the daughter of Laurie and Matt Daunt. Madeline not only excels in academics, but the arts as well. She has been a member of the DHS Varsity Choir for four years as well as a dancer at Sandra Brewer's/Dance Connection for 15 years. Her future plans are to attend NYU or Carnegie Mellon to double major in Musical Theatre and History. She aspires to be on Broadway.

Brian is the son of Elizabeth and Stephen Hall. Brian is also challenging himself with six Advanced Placement courses. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Quiz Bowl, Euchre Club and the Varsity Tennis team. He plans on attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to become an engineer.

In February, Kaden, along with some 15,000 Semi-finalists, will be notified by mail that they have advanced to Finalist standing.

Presentations

DEF Professional Scholars share PD experiences

If you have never seen kids dancing during grammar lessons, then stop by Gates Elementary teacher **Brad Fuson's** classroom any day around 1:45 p.m.

It is just one of the ways Fuson combines structure, discipline and respect in his classroom with creativity, passion and enthusiasm. And it is one of the tools Fuson learned about while attending the Ron Clark Academy earlier this year as the 2017 Davison Educational Foundation Professional Scholar.

Fuson, along with 2018 DEF Professional Scholar **Melissa Barraco**, literacy specialist and coach at Central Elementary, talked about the unique professional development opportunities they were afforded thanks to the DEF's annual \$1,000 grant.

Fuson said he was very inspired from what he learned while at the Ron Clark Academy, which is named after and operated by Clark, whose story was featured in the award winning 2006 movie, "The Ron Clark Story."

When Fuson returned to Gates, he adopted new classroom rules such as Rule #16: "Treat everyone exactly how you would like to be treated" and Rule #9: "Do not smack your lips, tsk, roll your eyes or show disrespect with gestures." Student are also not allowed to raise their hand. If they have something to say, they are to "stand and deliver," Fuson said.

Deceptively, Rule #36, which is "Be the best person you can be" is one of the hardest rules to follow, according to Fuson.

"When you write your name on your paper, is it the best way you can write your name on the paper?" he asked.

Fuson, who presented at Monday night's board of education meeting while standing atop a chair, also built a 16-foot stage for his classroom.

"I jumped off my desk and onto that stage on the first day of school and told my students "welcome to fourth grade!" Fuson said. "You can't stand still. In years past I would stand at the board and blah, blah, blah. On stage, there are kids in front of me, behind me; I'm down, all around. The same stuff is coming out of my mouth but it's a little more exciting because now I'm like a cartoon character."

As this year's DEF Professional Scholar winner, Barraco attended the Guided Reading Institute at the University of Massachusetts. Barraco said she knew



Above, Brad Fuson presents from atop a chair; below, Melissa Barraco is thrilled with results she has seen after implementing a reading intervention she recently learned about.

she had to attend after reading Jan Richardson's "The Next Step Forward in Guided Reading."

And the author did not disappoint at the conference, according to Barraco.

"I am total Jan fan now," she gushed, showing a picture of herself and the author that was taken at the conference.

While the three-day conference focused on different aspects of guided reading and coaching, Barraco said the biggest takeaway for her was about interventions.





Leading the Pledge

Students who participated in Intercession I.0 led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance at Monday's Board of Education meeting. Students shared their favorite activities of intercession. The students were accompanied by Gates Elementary Theresa Wendt, Intercession Coordinator Tracy Bennett and Hill Elementary Office Clerk Wanda Mitchell.



Action items

November is Administrator Appreciation Month in Davison

Board of Education members have designated November as Administrator Appreciation Month in Davison.

“Davison Community Schools is a great place for children due to its wonderful staff,” said Superintendent **Eric Lieske**. “Our administrators are at the forefront leading our district’s mission of putting kids first. We very much appreciate the outstanding group of school administrators we have leading our school system and are honored to recognize them this evening.”

Board approves 8th grade Washington, D.C., trip

Board of Education members approved the annual 8th Grade Washington, D.C., trip at last night’s meeting. Davison Middle School Teacher **Janet Green** will once again lead the trip, which takes place during the May 2019 intersession.

DEF Scholars/Continued from Page 4

“I felt like Jan Richards was talking directly to me,” she said.

When she returned to Davison, Barraco created a new format based on what she learned.

“It’s not a program, not a canned sit down and read from a script. It’s actual teaching,” she said.

In the past, students were pulled out of class for 30 minutes of isolated skill work but it never seemed to transfer over to their reading. Now, students participate in RISE: Reading Intervention for Students to Excel. All students now come to Barraco’s room where she and three paraprofessionals operate four stations. At station 1, students are introduced to a new book; at station 2 phonics and word study are

the objective; station 3 has students re-reading the book and engaging in comprehension conversation; and station 4 is guided writing.

“It’s very systematic and 60 minutes of solid reading time,” Barraco said. “Already we have seen amazing results from this.”

Board Treasurer **Todd Ferguson**, who also serves on the Davison Educational Foundation, said he hopes more teachers apply in the future for the DEF Professional Scholar program.

“We are thrilled to have the DEF provide our teachers with these opportunities,” said Board President **Kathy Sudia**.