



Inside Track

A Model District Where Students Want To Be
Home of the Railroaders!



March is Reading month is rocking at the middle school. This month, we are focusing on Rock 'N Read. Students are working on taking their favorite songs and turning the lyrics into things that have to do with reading or books. At the end of the month, students will use the lyrics to make a classroom music video. We also have several competitions going to see how many students can read 100 pages or more during the month. Our peer mentors have also been active this month. Peer mentors have been going to Bertha Neal and Robert Kerr to read to students in multiple classrooms!

Essay Contest

Back in the fall, Mrs. Eisinger had all of the eighth graders enter an essay contest sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance Agency, entitled: My Michigan Hero. Congratulations to the top three winners who were submitted and judged over the past few months.



First place went to Kyle Winslow, second place to Mark Sworm, and third place to Clara Henry. Kyle's essay will now move on to the next phase of judging at the statewide level. Let's wish him luck!



FFA Labor Auction

The annual Durand FFA Labor Auction was held at the high school cafeteria on March 14th. Members from the chapter are auctioned off for 8 hours of work to members of the FFA alumni, the school staff, the community and local businesses to help the chapter raise money for the upcoming year. This year, auctioneer Troy Crow sold 49 Durand FFA Chapter members, including the Advisor Mr. Torey Birchmeier. In total, the chapter was able to raise \$17,775. The money raised through the fundraiser will help with membership dues, convention and conference payments, scholarships, chapter expenses, and classroom and chapter supplies. Thank you for all of the community support!



PANCAKE DINNER

A huge THANK YOU to the Venice Twp. Fire Department and the City of Durand Fire Department for all of their time and support with this successful event. It was a wonderful community event that allowed local youth activities to promote and encourage participation in their organizations. In addition, it also offered a delicious meal for the entire family. Thank you for all who participated.



On March 4th, Dr. Carlson came to visit all of the kindergarten classrooms at Bertha Neal. Dr. Carlson is a dentist in Durand, so the students were very excited to welcome him in to our school. He discussed the importance of keeping our teeth healthy, how often to brush and floss, the techniques of brushing and flossing, the different tools they will see at the dental office, and what foods are and are not healthy for our teeth. He also brought along his monster friend, Bruno, to demonstrate the correct ways to brush and floss. The students absolutely loved having him visit!



IT'S A JUNGLE AT ROBERT KERR

The jungle is this year's theme for reading month at Robert Kerr. A special thank you to the reading committee who has planned, organized, and implemented a month full of special activities that celebrate reading. Author assemblies, DEAR time, special dress days, jungle games, are just a few of the activities planned. In April, as a school wide celebration, the students will be travelling to Owosso Cinemas to watch the movie The Jungle Book.



FFA State Convention

This year, the Durand FFA Chapter had 12 members attend the 2016 Michigan FFA State Convention. The agricultural issues team, consisting of Sophie Pawloski, Janelle DeClerg, Allison Luchenbill and Zora Zdunic, placed 5th overall in the state, earning a silver award. The demonstration team, consisting of Lucas Davenport, Emma Holek and Kyle Godley, placed 11th overall in the state, earning a silver award. Haley Raupp placed 3rd in the state overall in Creed, earning a gold award. We also had member Madilynn Mills in the State Chorus, and three delegates attend with us as well: Devin Wood, Grant Hart and Jacob Sprague. Earning other awards were Outstanding Junior: Nash Hart, State Degrees: Alexandrea Nichols, Allison Luchenbill, Janelle DeClerg, Sydney Holek, Mattison Misner and Gaven Ackerman, and Academic Excellence: Kate McMillin, Janelle DeClerg, Nash Hart and Allison Luchenbill. Great job to all!



FCCLA Conference

The Durand FCCLA had an amazing show at the Michigan FCCLA Conference. Our Chapter was recognized as a 5-Star Chapter, Community Service Gold and Gimme 5! Award Winner. The Chapter members did just as well in their STAR Events. Hope Fox and Sybil Palowski earned a Bronze Medal with their project. Hanna Ford received a perfect score of 100 and a Gold Medal for her Scrapbook Entry. The Team of Nikki Morrish and Amber Putnam received a Gold Medal in Life Event Planning. The Following Teams received Gold and Qualified for FCCLA Nationals in San Diego, California: The team of Brianna Frizzelle, Kayla Frizzelle, and Kassidi Ross. The team of Macayla Davis, Cassidy Petersen, and Elise Serrano. The team of Coltin Conrad, Jordan Taylor, and August Tomasek. The team of Faith Butler and Brit Maddrell. Hayley Allen will also be representing Michigan at the National Conference. Congratulations to all!

Superintendent News

As we enter spring I thought it might be a good time to continue to update the community on our ongoing projects in the district. One continuous newsworthy item is the potential sale of both Doyle Knight and Wilbur Bills Elementary schools. The topic has been on the agenda for discussion at board meetings for several months now and we've held three community forums as we gather input and determine the desired wishes of the villages of Lennon and Bancroft. I've had some community members ask about when the Board of Education will be making a decision. At this point in time I would project a resolution for

the sale of one or both of the buildings could feasibly come as early as the April 18, 2016 board meeting. We are still having conversations and a meeting in the Village of Bancroft is still a possibility moving forward considering all of our discussions have been held on campus at the middle school.

Another big newsworthy item is that all of the schools in Shiawassee County have been granted an early start to school waiver by the state. What will that look like? The biggest change of note will be that August 25, 2016 will be the first day of school for students in our district. State law requires public schools to begin school after Labor Day, but as a part of our waiver, we'll be able to start on the 25th which will coincide with our multitude of students

who are dual enrolled in college courses. The rest of our calendar is still having the kinks worked out, but we should be able to publish it by spring break. The next question you might be asking is when would students be finished with school in June? Though not completely locked in right now, a pretty firm date for the last day of school would be June 9, 2017.

We'll have more information on this very soon, but until then, have a great and restful spring break. And if you're traveling, please be cautious on the roads and look out for others.

Sincerely,
Craig McCrumb
Superintendent, Durand Area Schools