



Inside Track

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

Foods Class



Mrs. Salfate's nutrition and foods classes experienced firsthand the generosity and hard work of their fellow students and a community member. Jerred Lessard and Josh Austin coordinated a Fresh Apple Cider Lab for all the students in the class. Jerred brought in his Grandfather's cider press and Josh brought in the apples. Together they demonstrated to their classmates all the steps it takes to press delicious cider. Mrs. Salfate and her students would like to thank Tom Rex for his help in making this learning opportunity a possibility.



Mrs. Shankster's STEM class helped out city council by adopting a flower bed in town. The students will be taking care of the flower bed for the next several years. They will plant flowers, weed, and water it. If you want to check it out, it is the flower bed right by the water tower.

Durand Middle School has been busy helping out the community through different projects. During the month of October, students had a penny war to see which football team had more fans. Michigan won the competition over Michigan State, but the real winner was Fringe Salon. They received a donation of \$155 for their "I can-cer vive" event. We would like to thank everyone who donated and we can't wait to help another charity soon.



3rd GRADE DICTIONARY TIME!!

Once again the Burns Grange generously donated a new dictionary to all 3rd grade students at Robert Kerr. This has become an annual event, one which brings great joy to the third grade students as they receive their very own dictionary! Thank you Burns Grange for your continued support of Robert Kerr.



The students at Bertha Neal Elementary are collecting nonperishable food items for our annual food drive. We will be collecting donations through December 7th. All donations will be distributed locally. If you'd like to make a donation, stop by the Bertha Neal office and drop off your nonperishable food items. Thank you for your support!



Marching Railroaders

The Durand High School marching band competed at the MCBA State Finals held at Ford Field on Saturday, November 4. The Marching Railroaders have qualified for State Finals every year since 1980. The band performed their show "Contagion" and earned 5th place in Flight IV with a score of 85.5. This is the highest score earned by the band in the last five years. The students have made an enormous amount of progress both as individuals and as an ensemble this season. Watching the freshmen go from the beginning of the season to the end has been an amazing journey. The students worked very hard this season, and earned their way back into the top 5. They will perform at the Santa's Light Parade on November 24th, at the Flint Firebirds Game on December 1st, and host their Holiday Concert on December 13th. The concert begins at 6:30 p.m. and is free to attend. For more information about the Durand band program, including a list of upcoming performances, visit our website at durandbands.org.



DHS Students of the Month

Congratulations to the following students for being recognized as our November Railroaders of the Month: Aidan Custer, Cierra Shire, Julia DeYoung, Allyson Botos, and Sam McPherson. Great job!

Superintendent News

Thanksgiving? Really, Thanksgiving is here already? Years ago in the spring of 1994 as I was completing my first year as a teacher and coach, I vividly remember a conversation with two distinguished veteran teachers while making copies in the teacher work room. They asked me what I thought of my first year of teaching and immediately my first response was, "I can't believe how quickly the year went by." Their response: "Yes, and believe it or not, each year goes by faster than the previous year." At the time I was surprised to hear that from them. Now, nearly 25 years later, I couldn't agree with them more. With that in mind, it is also amazing that it was two years ago that the community passed the no-mil increase bond that allowed us to refinance bonds from 2005 and 2006. The proceeds from this are now in place in the form of new roofing projects, windows, trim, boilers, unit ventilators, technology, paving, etc.

We are now entering the last phase of our bond work and also the last of the planning portion for how the last of the bond proceeds will be spent. The three main projects currently in play are the additional video cameras being installed in each of the school buildings. We will have a total of 140 video cameras monitoring locations such as entryways, parking lots, and other important locations throughout the district to assist with security. Another project currently underway is the 10'x75' band and music storage area installed on the upper mezzanine adjacent to the gymnasium. The storage space is in place and we are now working with the music boosters and teachers to design the interior space to meet their needs. The exterior will be completed by Christmas break, with the interior shortly after, likely in January. The third project currently underway is the wrapping of many of our outbuildings, dugouts, and bus garage in steel siding. We have our custom Durand Navy color ordered along with white trim with installation to begin in the first part of De-

cember. Some prep work is being completed now, and we expect the project to be completed again, before Christmas break.

On behalf of the district, I want to say thank you to the community of Durand for putting us in a position where we were able to make so many improvements for our students and staff. Our plan to use bond dollars to complete projects that would ultimately create savings for the general fund has been successful. LED lighting, high efficiency boilers, roofing/insulation, low maintenance metal siding, etc. all contribute to future savings in the general fund.

As we plan for the last bond proceeds, we will continue to be mindful of how those dollars are spent. I look forward to sharing with you in the coming months the last of the bond plans.

May you have a wonderful thanksgiving with family and friends,

Craig McCrumb
Durand Area Schools Superintendent