



Inside Track

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



Students at Durand Middle School enjoyed a night of educational science fun! Included in the science night was a sixth grade science



fair, fifth grade solar system displays, and many hands-on experiences. Students learned about the scientific method and were able to see what it would be like to be a scientist by creating their own experiment and displaying their results. Durand Middle School partnered with the University of Michigan-Flint to make this wonderful evening happen. Students of all ages were able to enjoy learning through these opportunities.

We also want to thank the Masons for their donation of six bikes for our students during the month of March. We really appreciate it!



March Reading Month at Robert Kerr

The local Masons supported March Reading Month by donating two bikes per grade level. The more the students read, the more chances they had to enter a drawing to win a bike. The Robert Kerr staff and students greatly appreciate the support and donation from the Masons.

Incredible Opportunity For Our First Graders



On April 1, 2016, all four First Grade classes went to the Michigan Sea Life Aquarium and Rainforest Café. Students were so excited to see all of the sea life and learn about their different habitats. Students were able to touch coral, a black tipped shark fin, and a preserved sea horse. They then learned about natural habitats for sea animals, how to safely rescue sea turtles, and how the aquarium obtains the animals. The students then explored the aquarium and were able to touch crabs and star fish. They were amazed when they saw jelly fish and sharks swimming overhead. We finished the day by having lunch at the Rainforest Café. Thank you to the Durand Educational Foundation, the Doris Kiacz Foundation, and the Bertha Neal PTAC for providing this incredible opportunity for our first graders! The trip was not only a wonderful educational experience, but one that would be financially out-of-reach for many of our students. It was an unforgettable experience!



Girls on the Run

Robert Kerr is proud and excited to once again be hosting the Girls on the Run program. Two nights every week after school, Mrs. Fitzpatrick and Mrs. Franks donate their time to organize and run this event that focuses on young girls being positive, independent, and good role models.

DI News



Our DI teams had great performances at the State Competition. Both high school teams will be going to Knoxville, TN for the global competition in May! This is the first time Durand has ever had two teams going. Congratulations!



51 people attended the DHS Destination Imagination Team Clean Gala in the Durand Union Station Ballroom on April 1st.

Dinner was served and music was provided by Daniel Greeson and DJ Joe Green. Dr. Michelle Sahli from U of M Flint gave an interesting, informative talk on the current water crisis in Flint and steps being taken to address it, as well as the creation of a framework to use for similar situations across the country. There were also many silent auction items sold. Profit from the Gala was \$2,582, which will be donated to the Flint Child Health and Development Fund (flintkids.org), a community-led organization that helps families affected by the Flint water crisis to pay for medical expenses and offers necessary immediate care. The team appreciates the tremendous support of the Durand Area Schools Food Service Department, Durand Union Station, Riverside Market, Bancroft Veterinary Clinic, EZ Catering, and many others in the community. This event would not have been possible without so many generous donations. The team competed at the Destination Imagination State Competition Saturday, April 16th with a presentation about their event. Great job representing DHS!

Students of the Month



The following students were chosen by staff members as Railroaders of the Month for April:

Jordyn Morrish-8th grade, Rachel Warren-9th grade, Melanie Weir-10th grade, Silverio Graham-11th grade, and Daniel Greeson-12th grade. Congratulations!

Superintendent News

There is no such thing as over communication, right? Seems that if anything, I've found that even if you think you're doing enough communicating on a topic, there is always room for a continuous flow of information. Having said that, we have had movement on our journey to sell Doyle Knight and Wilbur Bills elementary schools.

The most movement has occurred just recently during our April 18th board meeting, where a resolution was put forth and passed by a unanimous vote to sell the Doyle Knight building to the Victory Biker Church (VBC) led by Pastor Brian McKay. The bidding process began back in mid-December and was extended for both buildings at the suggestion of the communities involved. After community forums and discussions during board meetings,

the board ultimately felt comfortable approving the sale and entering into negotiations with VBC.

The process continues at this point for the potential sale of Wilbur Bills Elementary in Bancroft. After two forums at the middle school along with the normal board discussions, the board held a third forum to gather information from the Bancroft community, but this time it was held in downtown Bancroft. This turned out to be a valuable opportunity to talk to the 30 people in attendance. I think I can safely say that the board has heard nearly all the pros/cons of potentially selling the building to Kim Bowen, whose plan is to convert the building into a veterans' assisted living facility. Ms. Bowen was the high bidder at \$50,000 and has been present at all the forums to answer questions and explain her vision for the property.

Though the board may not be ready to vote on a res-

olution, I do see the time coming sooner than later. The board will host one additional half hour session for any additional comments in advance of the May 9th board meeting. The forum will be open at 6:30 pm, with the normal board meeting to follow at 7:00 pm. We are also asking that if anyone has any additional questions, comments, or concerns, to please contact me in advance of the meeting by emailing me at mccrumb@durand.k12.mi.us or by calling the office at 288-2681. Until then, on behalf of the Board of Education, we would like to say a hearty thank-you to the many people who have attended our board meetings and forums to share their perspectives.

Sincerely,
Craig McCrumb, Durand Area Schools Superintendent