



# News From The Hill

THE DUNKERTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Nov-Jan 14/15

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester Coming to an End

By James Stanton, Superintendent

It is hard to believe that the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester is coming to an end. We have a lot of work to do to finish this year and prepare for next year. While the state site visit is over, we need to work on forming a new SIAC Committee; the start date, calendar, and school funding are still up in the air; and we published the first-ever, Attendance Center Performance Rankings.

Much like the State Site Visit, the Attendance Center Performance Rankings are available on the IDE website; we are not sure if those will be in a format conducive to publishing them on our web page. If you want to see a hard copy, I will have one available in the office. There is still a lot of interpretation with the ACPR, but thus far we are showing some pretty good progress in the given categories. There will be nine criteria used in creating the rankings, but for now they are using two. I have not received any explanation as to what the other seven will be, or why they are using incomplete data, except that the legislature set a deadline, and this is the only way the IDE could meet it. Stay tuned for more.

The State site visit is over, and like a trip to the dentist or a colonoscopy, the anticipation was worse than the actual event. The official results were sent to the District a few weeks ago. After giving the Board a chance to

peruse and approve the results, we are now putting them out for the public to see. The IDE website will have the results buried somewhere on their web page, but you can go to the District website to find a copy of the information. Look for the link to the State Site Visit on the front page of our website. If you have any questions about the results, please stop in and see me. We will also have a hard copy at the school.

Overall, it was a very good site visit. We are happy with what they had to say and will use the suggestions given by the site visit team to continue to grow as a District. Thank you to the SIAC Committee, parents, community members, staff, Board Members, and students that took part in the interviews! We appreciate you for taking time to give us feedback as we move forward.

Now that the site visit is over, the School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) can take a breath, step back, and relax for a couple months. These folks made a five year commitment to the District in 2009, and many have honored that commitment by serving the entire five years. Although not everybody that started on this committee five years ago was able to remain active, we are truly grateful for those that served, whether it was for the full five years or a portion there-of. We are also

thankful to those that stepped up to fill in for those that could not complete their term.

This brings us to our next task. We will give those that are on the SIAC an option to either step away or stay engaged. The transition may create opportunities for others that want to become involved. This is not easy work, nor is it light work. This group makes direct recommendations to the Board and some pretty serious decisions for the District. We meet regularly and work hard. If you are interested in becoming a member of the SIAC Committee, please contact me. Just a word of caution: Not everyone can be on the committee. It must be approved by the Board, and it must reflect the make-up of our student body and community; we have demographics that we must meet. We need grandparents, parents, Board members, teachers, community members, students, and administration represented in equal balance as reflected by our school and community. Again, if you are interested in being part of this group and are in a position to make decisions that are in the best interest of the entire District, please contact me and get your name on the list.

Thank you for your support in making Dunkerton a great place to live and Dunkerton Schools a great place to be a kid! As always, thanks to the taxpayers of our community for supporting the school; we couldn't do it without you! Our doors are always open, so stop in anytime for a visit.

Stay in touch,  
jstanton@dunkerton.k12.ia.us

## Coming Soon

In the coming months, watch as you enter Dunkerton from the North. The Dunkerton Schools Curb Appeal students are creating a new 'Welcome to Dunkerton' sign to welcome you as you enter this beautiful town. The students have been working hard on this and are planning on erecting this sign as soon as the weather warms up. This project would not be possible without the generous donation from the Dunkerton Education Association Denim Dollars.

## Successful Basketball Scrimmage

The Dunkerton Curb Appeal students, as well as the Dunkerton Community School District would like to thank all those who donated items and money to the 'Hoops for Troops' Basketball Scrimmage held against Vinton-Shellsburg November 22. Thanks to your gracious donations, the event was a great success as the students packed and shipped three boxes full of donations to give to the brave men and women who serve overseas.

## New Foods Class Available

There was a new class for second trimester. Foods 3 class researched how a food goes from a seed to a meal. They have done some experiments with food - they made root beer, mozzarella cheese, and falafel. The class will be doing some cake decorating and regional foods of the U.S. and Canada and some other ethnic foods, as well as trying their hand at making Jolly Ranchers.

## February 16<sup>th</sup>—Snow Make Up Day?

February 16<sup>th</sup> is a scheduled No School Day – Snow Make-up Day #2. What that means is that if we do not have a snow day between now and the 16<sup>th</sup> of February, we will not have school. If we do have a snow day between those dates, we will have school on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Dunkerton Preschool Round-Up

All new preschool parents are invited and strongly encouraged to attend Preschool Round Up on Tuesday, March 24, at 6:00 p.m. in the Dunkerton School Commons. Mr. Carlin, Mrs. Lingenfelter, and Mrs. Marquart will give a brief overview of the preschool program and important information about signing your child up for the 2015-2016 school year. If you are unable to attend, please call Carmen, our elementary school secretary at 319-822-4297 so she can put your name on our preschool mailing list.



## Kindergarten Round-Up

All 2015-2016 kindergartners and their parents and/or guardians are invited to come see the classroom and meet the kindergarten teachers on Tuesday, March 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the kindergarten rooms. Mr. Carlin, Mrs. Sorenson, and Mrs. Tissue will give a brief overview of kindergarten, and there will be an opportunity for you and your child to explore our kindergarten classrooms, meet other parents and students, and complete a quick kindergarten activity.

## Spanish Class gets a Student Teacher



It is a pleasure to be invited to your community and teach in the school district! My name is Vanessa Espinoza, and I am student teaching in Paula McDougall's Spanish classes. We will have the opportunity to teach Spanish in the K-6 classrooms this upcoming trimester, along with the previously scheduled high school Spanish classes.

I was born in Zacatecas, México and came to the United States when I was two. I was raised in Columbus Junction, Iowa, and graduated from high school there. I was the recipient of the Herbert Hoover Uncommon Award my senior year in high school. I'm about to receive my bachelor's degree in Spanish K-12 Teaching from the University of Northern Iowa. The most memorable college experience I have is participating in Camp Adventure in Schweinfurt, Germany. I'm excited to work with your son/daughter this trimester!

## NHS

The National Honor Society students put on a successful Food Drive that ran from the end of November to the beginning of December. All the food went to local Dunkerton families. The 7th-12th students made this a 'Battle of the Classes' competition. This year, the junior class donated the most items, earning themselves a pizza party. A huge thank you to all that donated!



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade is 'Cool'!

The second grade classes are learning about the Polar Regions. They have learned about glaciers and the process of breaking the rocks into soil. Students followed the connection between rocks and ice cream. Of course, rocks are not one of the ingredients that go into ice cream, but they are an important part of how we get that great treat. With the help of Jake from Food Corps, students had to read a set of directions, use fractions to measure ingredients, and follow a recipe. The ice cream tasted delicious!

## 6th Graders Graduate From DON'T Program

On Friday, January 23, all 37 Dunkerton Sixth Grade students graduated from the DON'T program. DON'T is a semester long program offered through the Black Hawk County Sherriff's Office. It is taught by Deputy Joe Stafford, and is intended to give students tools to help them say "NO" to alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, and unintended use of prescription drugs. The program promotes positive and healthy habits and increased self-esteem.

The graduation ceremony, which was attended by parents, friends, students, and Dunkerton staff members, was led by Deputy Stafford. The guest speaker for the graduation was Kent Stock. Mr. Stock was the subject of the 2007 movie *The Final Season*. The movie was based on his role as the coach for the Norway High School baseball team during the 1990 – 91 season in which they won the school's 20<sup>th</sup> Iowa State Baseball Championship. This was the school's final season before being forced into consolidation with Benton Community High School.

Mr. Stock had a great message for the students. He talked about learning early in life to say "NO" to drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. He also posed a very important question for everyone in attendance to think about: "How do you want to be remembered?"

In addition to Deputy Stafford and Mr. Stock, Sherriff Tony Thompson offered the students his congratulations and some words of wisdom.

*The DON'T essay winner from Mr. Cutsforth's class was Abbigail Robinson and runner-up was Haley Brown. The DON'T essay winner from Mrs. Wurzer's class was Bailey Van Lengen and runner-up was Macey Tisue.*

Congratulations to the 2015 Dunkerton Sixth Grade graduates of the Black Hawk County DON'T Program!

## Yearbooks Available

Needing to reminisce with a blast from the past? There are yearbooks available dating back to the 1984 school year. Prices are as follows:

1984-1989: \$5  
1990-1999: \$10  
2000-2009: \$15  
2010-2013: \$20

If you are interested in purchasing a yearbook, please contact Bailie Bonnichsen via email at [bbonnichsen@dunkerton.k12.ia.us](mailto:bbonnichsen@dunkerton.k12.ia.us).