



News From The Hill

DUNKERTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SEPT-NOV 2015

“Empowering students to be life-long learners and caring, responsible citizens.”

We Have Been Keeping Busy

By Mr. James Stanton, Superintendent

The school year continues to be great, with student engagement and staff involvement at an all-time high. The positive atmosphere in our school is phenomenal, and it involves everyone. There are great things going on in our classrooms, and the environment and attitudes reflect that positive energy. I want to tell the students and staff to keep up the great work!

Part of the reason for the great environment is the professional development that our staff has been involved in over the summer and early in the school year. We had staff attend the PLC Conference in St. Charles, Missouri, and the Schoology Conference in Chicago over the summer. Four staff members went to the ITEC Conference in Des Moines in mid-October. On October 19th we had Todd Whitaker, one of the leading speakers in education, come to Dunkerton and present to 400 teachers from the area, including our entire staff, as well as the staff from Jesup, Janesville, Tripoli, and Sumner-Fredericksburg. There were 11 other schools that sent small groups to learn from Mr. Whitaker. It was an engaging, entertaining, and thought-provoking day in which he shared with us his 17 things that “Great Teachers Do Differently”. It was an afternoon with tons of great take-aways.

If any of you would like to see the

District’s Annual Progress Report, it is available on our website. Go to www.dunkerton.k12.ia.us, choose the “District” option on the top row of tabs, and then pick “District Information” from the list on the left. If there are any other state or federal reports that you would like to see, all of them are available at the DE website www.educateiowa.gov. It is a fairly easy site to navigate and find what you want. If that does not work for you, I have all of those same documents in my office, and you are welcome to stop in any time to look at them. Please call ahead to make sure that I am here and available so you do not waste a trip.

We are always looking at ways to improve our website and communication. If you have any suggestions, please let an administrator know, and we will see what we can do to make improvements. We are constantly working to keep students, parents, and community members apprised of happenings and upcoming events at our school. As easy as that sounds, it really is a monumental task and one that we constantly work to improve upon.

There has been much talk about when the 1921 building is scheduled to come down. The answer is in 2019 or 2020 when we call our bonds and can re-issue new bonds to pay for the demolition and reconstruction. We could do it earlier, but that would mean we would have to re-bond. That would be an expensive proposition

and one that is not necessary at this time. The Fire Marshall gave us until 2019, we are in a position to pay off our GO bonds in 2019, and we can then re-bond without raising taxes. That is what seems to make the most sense from a fiscal standpoint. Let me know if you want to talk more about this or have another idea.

The District is selling some of its used computers. See the ad later in the article on how to buy and what \$50 will get you. These computers are about 3 years old. Many students have already purchased some and have said they are working great. Stop into the Central Office to pick one up if you are interested. We will also sell some of the second floor items in the future. One of the first items will be the lockers. We will be selling them in blocks. They will be \$2 per locker for the smaller blocks, and \$1.50 for the larger blocks. A block of 10 lockers will cost \$20; a block of 24 lockers will cost \$36. Stop in to see if they will fit your needs. We are taking our time and trying to move slowly so as to not make this an “all consuming” project for our staff.

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!

With Raider Pride,
James Stanton
jstanton@dunkerton.k12.ia.us
GO RAIDERS!!!

NHS Newsletter

The Dunkerton National Honor Society (NHS) is in its busy season. We recently had our annual ditch cleaning of Elk Run Road. Members donned orange vests and walked in between the ditches picking up garbage. This event is a favorite for most members, allowing them to be one with nature and see large amounts of roadkill.

We also had our Powder Puff football game. This is the biggest event NHS hosts all year and is fun for all the girls within the school. This year the Seniors went up against all the other grades and ended up with a huge scoring game of 0-0. Our chair members of the event, Alecia Kimball and Carley Happel, did an excellent job handling the entire game.

We are now in the middle of our annual food drive with each grade trying to bring in the most cans in order to win the pizza party. The food drive is now halfway over with the Freshman class in the lead.

We will be doing a toy and clothing drive after Thanksgiving break from November 30-December 11. Anyone interested in donating new or gently used items can bring it to the school offices.

Fine Arts News

Our marching band spent a day with the UNI Marching Band picking up a few pointers. While there, they had the opportunity to march at halftime in a band of *over 800* musicians! This was a fun change from our usual Friday night performances at school.

Six clarinet players from the JH and HS bands participated in UNI Clarinet Choir Day. They learned some pointers on playing and repair and participated in two mass clarinet ensembles with almost 100 other musicians!

A group of 18 high school band students participated in the Iowa Star Conference Band Festival on Monday, November 16. They were split in two 85-member bands with other schools of the conference. The kids all had a great time!

Dunkerton Schools Selling Computers

\$50 for the following:

Used HP PC
Monitor
Keyboard
Mouse
Power Cord
Connecting Cords

These items are being sold AS IS.
Go to Central Office—Entrance #1 to purchase.
See Mr. Stanton or Jeff Kramer.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Christmas concerts. The K-6 concert is December 7, at 7:00 p.m. Join us on December 14 for the 7-12 concert at 7:00 p.m. Both performances will be in the HS gym.

Dunkerton will be hosting conference speech on February 24, from 1:00-3:30 p.m.! From one-act plays and improv to radio broadcasting and musical theatre--there really IS something for everyone! Then, on May 6th, we will host IHSMA State Large Group Music Contest! Both are great opportunities for us to welcome the community into our school and for YOU to enjoy quality entertainment! If you are a member of Fine Arts Boosters (or want to help), please get on board to help with one or both of these. Contact the school for more information.

With the upcoming holidays, please remember to use Raider Rewards. Maybe you need to get groceries for the Thanksgiving feast, or you are starting your Christmas shopping. Gift cards work for your own purchases AND for gift giving! Every gift card you buy helps our Fine Arts students! Have a wonderful holiday season!

10th Grade English

The sophomores in Mrs. Corbin's English class just finished the book Lord of the Flies by William Golding. After finishing the book, students were required to compile a variety of projects that connected the theme and events in the book, as well as highlight their personal strengths and talents.

The projects were impressive. Creative students turned in raps, movie trailers, book covers, 3D models made out of cake, and murals. Those who like to write turned in newspaper articles, diary entries, essays, among other things.

The 10th grade English class seemed to really enjoy the book and heavily reflected on the intense character progression of the stranded boys.



Mural created by Jozi McCoy and Gracen Weaver

Inclement Weather Updates

Weather Delays and Cancellations for Dunkerton Community Schools will be through KWWL-TV, KCRG-TV, and KGAN-TV. Weather alert texts are available from all three, but KWWL is by far the most reliable and the quickest.

Second Grade Citizenship

The second grade students selected and researched a person that they considered to be a good citizen. They wrote a description of the person and described what makes the person a good citizen. All of this information was put on a poster along with a picture of their citizen.

Choir Updates

Our 7-12 Winter Concert will be Monday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the new gym. The concert will feature both Jr. High and High School bands and choirs, as well as Show Choir and Jazz Choir. Admission is FREE.

Congratulations to the Jazz Choir on being selected to perform the National Anthem at the opening round of the State Volleyball Tournament in Cedar Rapids on November 10th. Members include sopranos McKenna Boesch, Chelsea Fager, and Hannah Jacobsen; altos Rylie Stanton, Alina Burch, and Taylor Gillespie; tenors Adam Manahl and Mike Boner; basses Charlie Magee and Noah Christians. They did a fabulous job and represented Dunkerton very well!

Adam Manahl participated in the UNI Vocal Arts Festival in October, singing tenor II. Mike Boner and Caleb Sadler participated in Wartburg College's Real Men Sing Festival on Oct. 17, both singing bass I with over 500 males ranging in age from 13-adult.

11th Grade English

As we near the end of first trimester, the juniors are working hard to finish the novel, Catcher in the Rye. The students are currently creating projects to go along with what they have been learning about the book. While analyzing the different chapters of the book, we also learned new vocabulary words, talked about figurative language, and looked into how the characters interact with each other.

One of the activities the students enjoyed the most with this unit is creating figurative language posters using the literal meanings along with the figurative meaning. I am looking forward to writing research papers and starting literature circles at the start of second trimester!

12th Grade English

Seniors are working incredibly hard on their final projects – a Multigenre Research Project. For these projects, students were allowed to choose their own topic. Topics vary from NFL teams to singers to Walt Disney to Ellen DeGeneres. Most have really delved into their projects.

Alex LeBlanc created a music video to an Avril Lavigne song; Brittany Norem and Xena Root created pop-up books, and several students created new CD albums. I've also seen game boards, timelines extremely excited for the students to complete and turn in their projects; I will keep their projects around my room for anyone interested in checking them out! We will start off second trimester reading a Shakespeare play, then doing a multicultural unit!

–Ms. Bonnicksen



HS Cross Country

The 2015 CXC season was a success. The cross-country team accomplished some major goals this season: bring home a second straight conference championship and qualify a team to the state meet.

At the conference in Waverly, the boys won by the closest of margins, beating Colo Nesco by a tie breaker going to the 5th place finisher on the team, Will Brown. Four runners made all conference: Jordan Yessak, John Davis, Peter Kauten, and Ben Reams.

The three girls on the high school squad could not run as a team; therefore, the goal was to set and break the new 5K record. First Alecia Kimball and then Sarah Heideman set the school record and lowered their times with Kaitlin O'Hara just behind.

The junior high team of nine runners had much success with Riley Tisue winning the conference championship.

At the District meet in Cedar Falls, the boys finished 3rd, beating 4th ranked West Fork to advance to state. Taking 1st place overall was Jordan Yessak, who also won 2 other meets this year and set a school record of 16:02. Other members of the boys varsity team were Mitch Winkers, Cole Heiple, and Alex LeBlanc.