



Inside Track

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



Robert Kerr Mural

Mrs. Debbie Custer and her grandson Alex spent many days over the summer giving a face-lift to the Robert Kerr mural that is located in the gymnasium. Mrs. Custer painted the mural several years ago and volunteered her time once again to touch-up the mural. Thank you Mrs. Custer and Alex for your time and effort. The mural looks amazing!



Operation Freedom Pre-Game Performance

Third and 4th-grade students from Robert Kerr participated in the Operation Freedom pre-game festivities by singing God Bless America to a packed crowd. Mrs. Rodgers, the music teacher, organized this wonderful activity. Thank you to all students who participated and a special thank you to Mrs. Rodgers!



DUSI Partners in Education: The engine bell is on loan from the Durand Union Station for the 2016-17 school year. Check it out in the Bertha Neal Elementary office!



Science is Fun!

Students in Mrs. Shankster's 6th-grade science class at Durand Middle School are learning about ecosystems and how biotic and abiotic components interact. Students are discovering details about predator and prey relationships by dissecting owl pellets in class. They are using dichotomous keys to identify the origin of the bones they find. Students can be heard saying, "Wow! This is awesome!" and "How cool! Look at this!" Science at DMS is fun and interactive! Students are working on their cooperative learning, problem solving, and inquiry skills!

5th Grade Social Studies

In 5th-grade social studies, students are doing a research project on a Native American tribe. The project has the students using the internet to find information about their tribe's way of life in the past. The projects has a written portion as well as making a model of their tribe's home. The written report and models will be presented to their classmates. The models will be on display in the media center so everyone can see the creativity and hard work put into these by our 5th-grade students.



Durand Homecoming 2016



This year for Homecoming, the Durand High School student body went on a "Road Trip" as their theme. Students traveled to Honolulu, Las Vegas, Hollywood, New Orleans, and Juneau. The week was filled with lunch games and dress up days in which points were earned for Spirit Week. Congratulations to the Junior Class of 2018 for earning the highest number of points to win the Spirit Week plaque! Cacia Kaupp and Ryan Yenshaw were our Freshmen representatives. Sophomores were represented by Devi Hodge and Jacob Callender. The Junior representatives included Alexa Hensel and Robert Poust. Our Senior Homecoming court consisted of Morgan Elder, Hanna Ford, Meredith Hurtado, Mallory Lucas, Ryan Aldrich, Jake Will, Randy Will, and Remington Wurtz. This year's Queen was Nikki Morrish and our King was Tyler Runyan. Congratulations!!! The Student Government would also like to congratulate the Varsity Football team on their 28 to 18 win over Atherton. This year's Homecoming success was due to outstanding student government members, along with many contributions from staff, community members, businesses, parents, and administration. Thank you to everyone!

Middle School Student Council

Another great year is underway at Durand Middle School! This September we held elections for student council with each grade having the possibility of five representatives, and the 7th-grade also having the opportunity to run for the executive board. The students running for the executive board gave speeches and voting took place with success.

The council has already had two meetings, and is eager to do great things this year. Council members have created posters for spirit week to help the student body get excited about homecoming. Additionally, they are getting ready to collect Box Tops as a way to raise money for our school. The council will be a part of many activities for the school as well as ending the year with helping out with the talent show. It looks to be an exciting year for our student council.

Superintendent News

A year ago the Durand Area Schools community passed a \$6.4 million dollar bond to improve our schools in a number of areas. Fortunately, this fall our students and staff are benefitting from the generosity of the community in the form of all new technology in the buildings. For starters, our technology improvements have been in the form of new computers in classrooms and computer labs. Next summer, we'll be undertaking a massive re-wiring project and replacing switches, as well as a number of wireless drops for easy internet accessibility. Other bond related improvements are being completed and planned here in the next few months.

One challenge for the district is that bond improvements don't all happen at once and some are drawn out over time due to a number of factors, namely timing the bid process in a strategic manner. While you may have noticed the sidewalk work that was completed at the middle school, or noticed the new technology, and even by December you'll see the bleachers at Roundhouse Stadium have safety and security upgrades, other items occur on an extended timetable. The timing of the bid process is important in order to maximize bond dollars. For us, the entire project has essentially been divided into two summers of work. Bond work for next summer's roofing/windows/boilers/unit ventilators/air conditioners/technology wiring is actually taking place in the next several weeks. Our best chance at low bids will occur on this timeline, thus maximizing bond dollars. While this past summer's work may not be overly

visible to the community, this coming year will be just the opposite. You'll see a tremendous amount of activity in the next several months.

The district had an extremely fortunate opportunity present itself with the recent sale of Wilbur Bills Elementary. The \$50,000 district received will now be able to be applied to district improvements. While a bit challenging to explain in a short article, the bottom-line is that by executing a cash sale of the property, coupled with what is now owed on the original bond being below 5 percent, the district was able to utilize the money from the sale on school infrastructure. The interesting thing about this is that for the district to legally do this, the money needed to be spent prior to the sale of Doyle Knight Elementary. During the bond needs assessment, LED lighting was considered as one area of improvement, but it did not make the final cut for the bond. Well, over the course of the past year we did some research into the potential benefits of switching over our middle school gymnasiums to LED lighting and received some quotes. Once the additional \$50,000 in bond money became available, the Board of Education quickly recognized the opportunity and approved the bid process for LED lighting in the gymnasiums. The end result is that over Christmas break both the middle school and high school gyms will have new LED lighting systems installed. This is pretty exciting because not only will there be a bit of a "wow" factor when attending an event in the gym, but it will also save the district around \$8,000 per year in energy costs alone.

As mentioned earlier, the cash proceeds of the

sale of Wilbur Bills needed to be spent prior to the sale of Doyle Knight. The district worked out an agreement with Victory Biker Church to rent Doyle Knight to VBC for a four month period. After the LED lighting project is complete and the four month rental agreement is completed, the agreement converts to a lease to own purchase agreement. Though not ideal like a cash sale, the lease to own option works well in that it is spread out over 4 years and allows VBC to begin work on Doyle Knight for their purposes and the district begins collecting on the sale of the building. It is important to note that any and all improvements or any costs associated with the property will be the responsibility of the Victory Biker Church. Though there is a tremendous amount of history surrounding both Wilbur Bills and Doyle Knight elementary schools, executing the sale of these buildings will not only enrich Bancroft and Lennon, but also save the district approximately \$30,000 per year in ownership expenses.

These are exciting times for the Durand community. It will be a lot of fun to see how the improvements unfold over the course of the next several months. Once again, on behalf of our students, staff, and Board of Education, I want to say thank you again to our supportive parents and community members who made these improvement for our students possible by approving the no-mil increase bond last November.

Sincerely,
Craig McCrumb
Superintendent, Durand Area Schools