



Inside Track

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



FIRST Lego League Comes to Durand Middle School

This year, students at Durand Middle School are having the chance to compete at a FIRST Lego League competition. The middle school has had a robotics club for the last several years, but now they are stepping it up a notch and giving students the opportunity to create a robot, use problem solving skills to find the best strategies to use in completion, and see what it is like to meet up with many students from other schools with similar interests. The challenge this year is called "Trash Trek". Students will program their robot to complete several challenges centered on the theme of reducing, reusing, and recycling. Not only are students learning top notch engineering skills, they are also working on a community service project to help our community to make a positive change towards less waste. Students at DMS are technology savvy and are also showing their pride in our community. The team is led by Mrs. Shankster and Mrs. Lockwood. The funding for the team is made possible by the generous support of the Capital Area Science and Math Foundation.



Ms. Neumeayer's kindergarten class at Bertha Neal Elementary received a generous donation of bank bags to be used as the student's Math Tool Kits. The bags are being used to hold a variety of materials that the students use during instructional time. A great big "THANK YOU!" goes out to SageLink Credit Union for giving back to the community!



Exciting Adventures for Robert Kerr Students!

The students at Robert Kerr have many wonderful educational learning experiences during the school year. The photos are showing one of these experiences as the third grade students went on a field trip to For-Mar Nature Preserve in Burton. We greatly appreciate our PTAC who help to support these trips and activities throughout the school year.



The Region IV Discussion Meet was held at Laingsburg High School on October 3, 2015. Durand had two participants this year: Haley Raupp and Janelle DeClerg, and both did an exceptional job. Janelle DeClerg, along with two other FFA members, will be headed to the state competition in December later this year.

Participants left to right are as follows: Haley Raupp, Janelle DeClerg.



The Region IV Tractor Driving Contest was held at Laingsburg High School on October 3, 2015. Overall, Durand received first as a team in the Region IV Tractor Driving Contest, with individual awards as follows: Jacob Sprague: 2nd Place in the 2-Wheel Contest, Grant Hart: 3rd Place in the 2-Wheel Contest, and Lucas Davenport: 2nd in the 4-Wheel Contest.

Participants Left to Right are as follows: Jacob Sprague, Grant Hart, Lucas Davenport, Kyle Godley.



Durand Homecoming

Homecoming King:
Daniel Green
Homecoming Queen:
Janelle DeClerg

This year's homecoming was a great success! We had an average of 60% of our students participate in the dress up days through-

out the week and a lot of school spirit shown through floats, hallway decorations, lunch games, and the pep assembly on Friday. Congratulations to the sophomore class for winning the spirit week overall! Thanks to all the community members and businesses, the parents, students and staff members who made our Disney homecoming week so magical.

Marching Band

The marching band travelled to Athens High School for the Troy Athens Invitational. Out of 3 bands in our flight, the band earned 1st place and awards for Outstanding Visual Performance and Outstanding General Effect. The students worked very hard preparing for the competition and it showed this day!

Senior Citizen Luncheon Robert Kerr Elementary Thursday, October 29, 2015 - 1:00 pm Cost \$3.00

MENU

Chunky Turkey Gravy over Mashed Potatoes
Dinner Roll
Whole Kernel Corn
Pumpkin Pie with Whipped Topping
Coffee
Bottled Water
Milk



Please RSVP to the Robert Kerr office
989-288-2805.

Superintendent News

Durand Area Schools, on November 3rd, has a no-mill bond increase on the ballot for our community to consider. What you are hearing is true. It is a proposal that does not ask for additional mills that would increase your current taxes. If projections are true for the life of the bonds, and the bond issue is approved by voters, and taxable values do not go down, the homeowners and taxpayers in Durand would continue to pay their current tax rate. This would mean no new taxes above what you are currently paying if approved.

Yes, it sounds too good to be true, doesn't it. Well, it is quite an opportunity for the district. You may be wondering how this is possible. This no-mill increase is possible because last winter we were able to refund (think refinance) bonds from 2005 and 2006 and obtain a better interest rate. The interest saved over time is what the district is asking to apply to many essential areas. The areas emphasized in the proposal are energy efficiency, school security/safety, and technology. Approval of the bond vote on November 3rd would put about 6 million dollars back into the district to address some basic needs.

One of our district's beliefs is to always strive to be responsible and sustainable in our approach to

district operations. We also continually speak of the need to be able to fully defend our decisions, actions, and behaviors. I am very confident that approaching our community with this bond fits perfectly with these philosophies. The bond proposal is very small scale in nature and there aren't any extras, luxuries, or frills involved. The basics involved deal with energy efficiency, security/safety, and technology.

By focusing on reducing energy efficiency, the district stands to benefit from future energy costs, which of course, saves money that can be applied more directly to students and instruction. The primary energy saving areas would be in the form of more efficient boilers, roofing projects, unit ventilators, and window replacement.

The safety measures in the bond proposal address reconfiguring the entrances at the high school and Bertha Neal Elementary. Other projects would involve adding security cameras in all school buildings, replacing buckling sidewalks, and improving drainage around the track areas as well as the roadway coming into the campus off from Saginaw Street.

The technology portion of the bond focuses on computer replacement in all schools and this is an extreme area of need. Computer labs would be upgraded and allow for us to continue to implement Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) programs at all levels of instruction. Currently our

elementary and middle school labs will not support the software needed for this instruction. How students learn and how teachers approach instruction is heavily impacted by instructional technology. We need to be putting learning devices and computers in front of our students and teachers so we can keep pace instructionally in our ever changing world.

I'm confident that our very conservative bond request will go a long way towards meeting our goals in being a responsible and sustainable school district. I feel comfortable that some of our energy efficiency needs can be addressed with passage of the bond proposal. There is a need for increased safety measures in buildings that we can begin to address with approval of this no-mill bond. The district's technology is outdated and suffering. If the bond were approved, it would bring us up to date in our basic technological needs.

The bond vote on November 3rd is quickly approaching and yes, it is a great opportunity for the district. Our school community is very excited about the potential of this bond and what it could mean for our students. Please feel free to contact me anytime regarding issues pertaining to the bond election for Durand Area Schools.

Craig McCrumb
Superintendent, Durand Area Schools