



Inside Track

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



FFA District Competition

Congratulations to the 13 teams and individuals who competed in the district leadership contests at Capac. Advancing to Regional competition in Mason are the following seven teams and individuals: Ag Issues Team, Parliamentary Procedure Team, Demonstration Team, Junior High Conduct of Meetings Team, Madilynn Mills in Extemporaneous Speaking, Haley Raupp in Creed Speaking and Xane Zdunic in Junior High Public Speaking. Great job to everyone!



Visitors from the Middle School

Mrs. Newman's class welcomed and enjoyed collaborating with Mrs. Shankster's Science class. The students completed a reading/science assignment together. Several times throughout the year Durand Middle School classes will visit Robert Kerr classes to work on educational endeavors together.

Pancake Dinner at Robert Kerr

It's that time of year again! Join us on Thursday, March 3rd from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m for a delicious pancake dinner and a chance to sign your son/daughter up for many youth activities that will start this spring and continue through next school year. Baseball/T-ball, Youth Football, AYSO, Cub Scouts, and Girl Scouts will all be available to accept registrations and to answer questions.

PBIS

The Durand Area High School Positive Behavior Intervention Support Team would like to thank the Durand Education Foundation for supporting the program. The DEF donated \$250 in order for the team to purchase gift cards as rewards for

Troubadours Assembly

Robert Kerr staff and students enjoyed a wonderful afternoon musical performance from the Troubadours. The Troubadours are a very talented group of musicians from the Flint Institute of Music



that use music and storytelling to teach educational lessons to schools around the state of Michigan.



During science class, fifth grade students have been learning about motion. One of the activities students did, was the Cool Car Lab. Students collected data, calculated the speed of their cars, and create a distance-time graph to represent the motion of their cars. For the lab, groups worked together to determine the speed and motion of a toy car. Pictured are Mason Pancheck and Tuff Sleiff working together on their lab.

"Come Rock in Your School Shoes"

Register at Bertha Neal Elementary!

Kindergarten and Preschool Registration for the 2016-2017 school year:

Students who qualify for Kindergarten or Preschool will be able to officially register on:

Thursday, March 17th (5 p.m.-7 p.m.)
Friday, March 18th (9 a.m.-3 p.m.)
at Bertha Neal Elementary

Students who will be 5 on or before 9/1/16 are eligible for Kindergarten. Students who will be 3 or 4 on or before 12/1/16 are age-eligible for Preschool. *Age waivers will be available. You will need to call the school to sign up for a registration time. Please call Bertha Neal Elementary at 989-288-2016. Items to bring: Legal Birth Certificate, Immunization Records, Proof of Residency.

students. The team conducts daily drawings to reinforce positive behavior. At the end of each marking period, students are selected for larger rewards such as gift cards. Congratulations to Tatianna Calderon, Corey May, and Georgia Renouf as our 2nd marking period recipients.

Science and STEM Classes

Students in Mrs. Shankster's sixth grade science and STEM classes have been having fun learning through hands-on experiences. In science class, students are learning about plate tectonics. They were able to participate in activities where they modeled plate boundaries and created "earthquakes" and "mountains". In STEM class, students are learning about kinetic and potential energy and are having fun while creating marble run rollercoasters. Students were challenged to create the tallest tower possible which would have the most potential energy.

Coaches vs Cancer

1st Annual Flint Metro League & Genesee Area Conference

Coaches vs. Cancer Challenge

Tuesday, Feb. 23

Game Times: JV 5:30pm - Varsity 7:00pm

Holly Broncos at Durand High School

\$10 T-shirts Available

\$1 "Wall of Hope" donations cards available

*All proceeds from this event will be donated to the American Cancer Society

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Students of the Month

The following students were chosen by staff members as **Railroaders of the Month** for February: Jacob Feldhouse-8th grade, Bailie DeFrenn-9th grade, MacKenzie Williams-10th grade, Randy Will-11th grade, and Colin Conrad-12th grade. Congratulations!

Superintendent News

Two major happenings are front and center to Durand Area Schools as we venture closer and closer to spring. First, and one that will have happened by the time you're reading this, is that the pricing of our bonds, made available to us with the community's passing of the no-mill increase bond from this past fall, will occur on February 18th. Our long term credit rating is currently AA-, which should help us with a favorable sale of our bonds. The sale of the bonds will come at a time when the district will be able to take advantage of near historic lows for bond interest rates. How does this translate to us? Well, with any luck, the district could capture an additional \$50,000 for use on projects.

Soon after the sale, we will be positioned to begin some of the bond projects. Computers, hand-held devices, new wiring, switches, and reconfiguring

drops will begin this spring, along with potentially relocating our main office area at Robert Kerr Elementary. The larger construction projects will have bids taken this summer for completion in 2017.

The second issue worthy of discourse here is the potential sale of both Doyle Knight and Wilbur Bills Elementary schools. Shuttered in June of 2011, the buildings have sat vacant and without any projected use. The district began receiving inquiries from groups and individuals this past fall and recently we completed an initial bid process for the sale of the buildings. At this time we have had conversations with both representative from Lennon and Bancroft regarding the potential sale. On February 8th, we held an open discussion prior to a board meeting with community stakeholders. From this meeting spawned another set of dedicated meetings, one for villagers of Bancroft, and one for villagers of Lennon.

On Monday, February 29th, we will host an open discussion/informational meeting for the community

of Lennon to discuss the potential sale of Doyle Knight Elementary. This will be held at Durand Middle School at 6:30 p.m. On March 2nd, there will be similar meeting for the community of Bancroft to discuss the potential sale of Wilbur Bills Elementary. This meeting will also be held at Durand Middle School at 6:30 p.m. If you have an interest in listening or contributing to the discussion, we invite you to attend. As a district, we are mindful of the rich history of both of these buildings. We are interested in your input and if the buildings are to be sold, it is in everyone's interest to know about the new neighbors potentially moving into the community. Please consider visiting our website at <http://www.durand.k12.mi.us/> in order to see bid and sale information.

Regards,

Craig McCrumb

Durand Area Schools Superintendent