



# Inside Track

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



The family of Yvonne Leland has made a generous donation to Robert Kerr Elementary School in her memory. Mrs. Leland was secretary at Robert

Kerr for 20 years – from 1961-1981. She worked with three principals: Helen Kadlechick, Dr. Jean Sloan, and Fred Junger.

She saw many changes to the school during her years there, including an addition to the building, a lunch program, the hiring of teacher's aides, the first pre-school classes, a parent club, and introduction of computers used in the classrooms.

Because of her fondness of Robert Kerr students, and a lifelong passion for reading, the donation will be used to enhance the school's reading program. A set of chrome books and storage/charging cart will be purchased for the library. The chrome books will be used in the library or checked out for learning activities in the classroom. A memorial plaque will be added to acknowledge Mrs. Leland's service.



The staff and students at Robert Kerr Elementary enjoyed working on team building skills and problem solving activities to build scarecrows promoting the upcoming "Make It and Take It" scarecrow decoration event. This event is hosted by the Durand Area Schools Educational Foundation and will take place on Saturday, September 26th during the Durand Fall Harvest Festival. The scarecrows that the student's created at Robert Kerr will be up for adoption to the local businesses. Look for these fantastic scarecrows as you are driving through downtown Durand.

We'd like to welcome our new teachers to Bertha Neal!

Mrs. Rogers (Music), Mrs. Sandy Puro (ECSEP), and Mrs. Johnson (Technology)



## Be Nice, Respect

The middle school welcomed Tom Thelen to our school to talk to the students about "Be Nice/Respect". Tom is an anti-bullying speaker who has spoken at over 500 schools, colleges, and organizations. He talked to the students about breaking free from the victim mindset and how to stand up to bullying. Tom is the author of Victimproof. The interactive presentation taught students the idea that you have a choice. The choice becomes what you feel, how you think, things that you say, things that you do, it becomes a habit, and that choice becomes your character. Tom's slogan is "Be the Change" and in order for things to change it has to start with you. Students also learned how to recognize bullying, how to stand up, walk away, talk to an adult, build self-esteem, prevent, and to BE THE CHANGE. Before Tom left, he told us that we had one of the most respectful and well-behaved schools that he has presented in front of.

Some information from the article was taken from tomthelen.com. If you would like more information, please visit his website.

## Railroader Homecoming

Our Homecoming Spirit Week will follow a Disney theme, is listed below:

- Monday (9/28): Monster's University (Favorite College Day)
- Tuesday (9/29): Sleeping Beauty (PJ Day)
- Wednesday (9/30): Lilo and Stitch (Hawaiian/ Topical Attire Day)
- Thursday (10/1): Pocahontas-Colors of the Wind (Class Color War Day)
- Friday (10/2): Durand Day
- Football Game 7:00 PM vs. Goodrich

Our Homecoming dance will be **Saturday, October 3rd.**

The Powder Puff game will be Monday (9/28) at 6:30 PM at the football field.

The Homecoming Hog Roast is Friday (10/2) from 4:00 to 7:00 PM in the HS cafeteria.

Our Homecoming parade starts at 5:00 PM Friday (10/2).

*Come join us celebrate our Homecoming at DHS! Go Railroaders!*

## Senior Citizen Luncheon

Location: Robert Kerr Elementary  
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2015  
Time: 1:00 pm  
Please RSVP by Tuesday, Oct. 27th to the school office 989-288-2805  
Cost: \$3.00

### Menu:

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



## National FCCLA Leadership Meeting



Three members of the Durand FCCLA had the opportunity to represent Michigan at the National FCCLA Leadership Meeting in Washington, DC. This event was from July 5th-9th. While the members were there, they were able to attend workshops and meetings that focused on developing strong leadership skills. Macayla Davis and Elise Serrano presented their research in the Illustrated Talk and received a bronze medal. Hayley Allen brought home a silver medal in the children's program she developed in the Focus on Children event. During their free time, they were able to visit a few of the monuments in Washington D.C.

## Superintendent News

Can someone please tell me what happened to summer? It's always amazing to me when I reflect on how quickly the school year passes and all of a sudden June rolls around and students are on summer break. And then it's over...just like that. As always though, when students and staff return to school in September there is a sense of newness and excitement. It's a time I always look forward to, especially now as a superintendent heading into my second year in Durand. This school year brings new exciting times and opportunities for Durand Area Schools. As many of you know, the district is bringing to ballot a bond proposal for our community to consider on November 3rd, 2015. This no-mil increase is a small scale bond proposal that looks to address district needs in a no frill way. If passed, the bond would provide the district with 6 million dollars to address basic needs. This no-mil 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 areas emphasized in the proposal are energy efficiency,

school security/safety, and technology.

By focusing on reducing energy consumption, 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. We are currently operating a boiler that was installed the year before Magic Johnson led the Spartans to their first NCAA basketball title!

Another area of concern to all school and community stakeholders is the safety and security of our buildings and grounds. Passage of the bond would allow for adding secure entrances at both the high school and Bertha Neal elementary. Additional security measures would come in the form of upgraded security cameras in all buildings. More safety additions would be added by replacing select buckling sidewalks, new handrails at the football stadium, and replacing the drainage and roadway areas by the football field and transportation.

The district has a dire need to replace and improve our district technology, and this is a proposal area for the upcoming bond. Technology is used in two

basic ways in our buildings. First, general everyday usage. The computer I'm using for this article is over 9 years old...a dinosaur in the ever changing world of technology. Importantly, other technology purchases would be for instructional and learning purposes. Computer labs would be upgraded but there would also be individual learning opportunities for students in the form of iPads and Chromebook. How students learn and how teachers teach can be heavily impacted by adding new hand held devices and computers.

This no-mil bond increase is an opportunity to address basic needs in a number of important areas. It is safe to say that these needs in the bond proposal are just that...needs. We kicked off the bond campaign last week and you'll be seeing and hearing more about this bond proposal. Our school community is very excited about the potential of this bond and what its passage could mean for our students. Please feel free to contact me anytime regarding this topic, or any other facing Durand Area Schools.

Very Sincerely,  
Craig McCrumb  
Superintendent, Durand Area Schools