



Inside Track

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

Decorating Downtown Durand



Mrs. Frank's students are working on a storefront window display during STEAM class with Mrs. Dumond. Robert Kerr students will decorate two downtown storefront windows for the holidays.



Mrs. Shankster's sixth grade STEM class had the opportunity to learn from an engineer in the field. Jason Nierscher, engineer and father to Jayden Nierscher, came in to talk to the class about his career. Mr. Nierscher works for Centurion Medical Products where he designs products for use in the medical field. Students learned about inventions and innovations made for use by doctors across the country. The students were so excited to hear about and get to experience some new technology created through Mr. Neirscher's work. Students asked questions and were able to get first hand information about what it takes to become an engineer. It was an amazing opportunity! Thank you to Mr. Neirscher and all of our wonderful DMS parents.



The Marching Railroaders

The Durand High School marching band competed at the MCBA State Finals held at Ford Field on Saturday, November 5. This season marks the 4th consecutive year the band has qualified for State Finals under director Chris Anderson. The Marching Railroaders have qualified for State Finals every year since 1980. The band performed their 2016 production "My Many Colored Days" and earned 9th place in Flight IV with a score of 84.85. This year is also the highest score earned by the band in the last four years. "The students worked incredibly hard this season," said Durand band director Chris Anderson. "They had a very challenging show both musically and visually and each person improved so much from the beginning of the season to the end." The band's next performance will be their annual Holiday Concert on December 12th. The concert begins at 6:30 p.m. and is free to attend. For more information about the Durand band program, including a list of upcoming performances, visit our website at durandbands.org. You can also find us on Facebook at facebook.com/DurandBands.



Ms. Neumeyer's Kindergarten students use the Clear Touch Interactive Panel to help reinforce reading skills previously taught in class. The students really enjoy having a life-size, interactive computer to practice their learning!



Child Development Class News

Mrs. Salfate's Child Development Class was recently awarded a grant of 30 crochet kits from JoAnn Fabrics and Herrschner's Crafts. Students are exploring the art of crochet and are able to take the item they made home as a reminder of their hard work and dedication in learning a new concept. This project has been a great team building activity because students are helping each other learn how to crochet and are even helping Mrs. Salfate perfect her crochet stitches. This has been a lucky year for the Durand Child Development Class as Mrs. Salfate also won a RealCare Premie Infant Simulator valued at \$350 from the American Association of Family and Consumer Science Conference she attended in July. Way to go!



DHS Students of the Month

The following students were chosen by staff members as **Railroaders of the Month** for November: Madyson Stebbins-8th grade, Jacob Lockhart-9th grade, Travis Burlingame-10th grade, Dovie Jones- 11th grade, and Austin Yager-12th grade. Congratulations!



New Computer Lab

Mrs. Pavey's class is working hard and enjoying the new computer lab at Robert Kerr. The lab has 30 computers and one large touch screen computer. Students at Robert Kerr now have access to two computer labs and three classroom sets of chromebooks.

Superintendent News

Last Sunday afternoon was spent with my in-laws in Holland where our family combined with my wife's brother's family and her parents. Like many families we gathered around the display of food, held hands, and counted our blessings prior to celebrating a few birthdays with an unbelievable Italian dinner. My Father in law is a master of recognizing and verbalizing all that we have in our lives for which we are thankful. As he finishes saying Grace, often I'm glad our children are listening and I'm hopeful that his words register because as a family, we have a lot to be thankful for in our lives.

When a new person is hired into Durand, either I or one of the board members are quick to welcome them into the Durand family. We spend a tremendous amount of time together and the people we work with literally become our second family after a short period of time. I was welcomed into the Durand family nearly three years ago and I certainly have been thankful for the sense of family in our school community. Though the list is too long to mention, there are a number of things to be thankful for in Durand Area Schools.

I'm most thankful for the people we have working with our children every day. Our teachers are amazingly committed and hard working. I'm in the buildings a lot and it is energizing to see how the students respond to and love their teachers. Many of the teachers are also coaches and sponsors of after school activities that keep them working right into the evenings. These are the teachers that are teaching as a lifestyle, or, as a way of life. They think nothing of the amount of time and energy they are devoting to their students because they are living the lifestyle of being with kids...their second family, and, the day doesn't end with the last bell of the day. Many of them who aren't doing after school programs and coaching are like my wife, Teresa. She puts in hours each night preparing and grading and it doesn't end on Friday. Conservatively she puts in a minimum of 10 hours a weekend. In general, I don't think non-educators fully understand the time and commitment it takes to be a teacher in this day and age. I'm thankful that we have teachers in Durand who are living the teaching lifestyle and making our schools a second home for our students.

The other people that I'm most thankful for are our non-teaching staff. Consider our bus drivers for

a moment. They are charged with transporting our students safely to school each day and I'm always mindful of the fact that they are the first people our students see every day as they greet them and welcome them onto the bus. Think of the responsibility they have and how they impact the start of each day for our kids. Impressive. With our kids being the queen bee, there are a number of people in the Durand family that buzz around meeting the needs of our children. Custodial staff, paraprofessionals, food service staff, and support personnel are all an integral part of making a good experience for our kids. Secretaries? Sheesh. The work they do and their ability to multitask is the glue that holds our buildings together. Again, impressive.

As we near the Thanksgiving holiday, you can count me as incredibly thankful for our Durand family. For all of us our work is our home away from home and I'm thankful for those who make this a great place to be and a place where I feel I'm part of an extended family. Best wishes to you during this season of Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,
Craig McCrumb
Superintendent, Durand Area Schools