

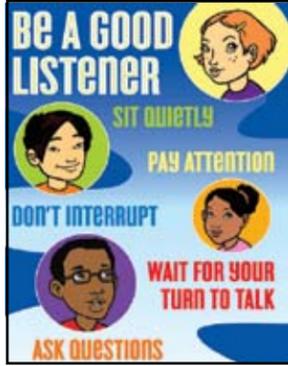


Inside Track

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



One very entertaining and enjoyable activity to celebrate March Reading Month was the grade level Reader's Theatre performances. The students performed a wide variety of fairytale and folklore plays for their classmates live on stage!!



Mrs. Frelich and Mr. Bromley are continuing to do classroom activities with the 5th graders. The lessons are focused on social skills. The latest lesson was on listening. Please ask your child to tell you the four parts of being a good listener and have them demonstrate what they learned.



FFA News

Our High School Parliamentary Procedure team finished with a Silver Award at the State Convention, while the Junior High Conduct of Meetings Team and Ag Issue Team finished with a Bronze rating. All teams did a great job! We also held our Annual FFA and Alumni Labor Auction and had another great sale! Thanks to all of the community members for their continued support. At the end of March, our new officers attended training at the officer camp at Camp Copneconic in Fenton. Our newly elected officers include:

President: Allison Luchenbill	Reporter: Ashley Frizzelle
Vice-President: Janelle DeClerg	Sentinel: Gaven Ackerman
Secretary: Sydney Holek	2nd VP: Madiynn Mills
Treasurer: Alex Muston	

We are looking forward to great things with our new leadership team!



Students at Bertha Neal celebrated "March is Reading Month" in a SUPER way this year. The entire school was decorated by the staff and parent volunteers in a Superhero theme to add a bit of excitement

to the school-wide reading challenge. The Bertha Neal PTAC purchased prizes for students who met their personal goal of reading 20 books. Ms. Hanycz, Bertha Neal Principal, set a school-wide goal of reading 4,000 books. The students met and far surpassed that goal by reading a total of 7,741 books! Since the students met their goal, they each earned duct tape to tape Ms. Hanycz to the wall!



DHS April Students of the Month

The following students were chosen by staff members as Railroaders of the Month for April. Congratulations to 8th grader Emily Hartzell, 9th grader Raegan Holec, 10th grader Brook Raley, 11th grader Allison Luchenbill, and 12th grader Rachel Austin. Congratulations!



Maple Syrup Project

Eighth grade students in Mr. Birchmeier's Ag class completed a unit giving them the opportunity to make maple syrup. During these activities, they were able to learn more about tree identification, how to properly tap a tree, conversions from sap to syrup, and the process of Maple syrup production related to food safety.

Robotics Results



The Durand High School Robotics team finished the 2015 season at the Lansing Regional Competition at Mason High School placing 16th out of 40 High School teams.

We ranked 186th out of 347 Michigan teams. We would like to thank Durand Area Schools, Capital Area Science and Mathematics (CASM), Graff Chevrolet of Durand, Riverside Market, XYZ Landscape Supply and Bowden Body Shop for their support for our team this year.



Watch out Robert Kerr, girls are on the move with the "Girls on the Run" after school program. This after school activity promotes self-awareness, charitable contributions, and a healthy lifestyle.

Senior Citizen Luncheon Returns! Senior Citizen Luncheon

Bertha Neal Elementary
Wednesday, April 22, 2015
1:00 pm

Cost: \$3.00
Please RSVP to the BN office at 989-288-2016

Menu

Chicken Salad on a Croissant, Bowl of Potato with Bacon Soup, Tossed Salad, Slice of Apple Pie
Coffee / Milk/ Ice Water

Superintendent News

As a new superintendent, I'm often asked by both family and friends about my job and the things I do as superintendent. On any given day, my response will likely vary due to the wide variety of topics that are involved in education. It could involve student and parent issues, instructional matters, special education concerns, business and finance, personnel, leadership, athletics... the list goes on and on. However, as the year has progressed, I've come to understand the importance of communicating with our district's families, students, and employees. It is with this in mind that I am compelled to share important information regarding the impact of Proposal 1 on school funding.

Proposal 1 is a plan that would address Michigan's problematic roads and provide an increase in funding for schools. The plan would raise the sales tax from 6% to 7% and change how gas is taxed in order to raise \$1.25 billion for roads. Schools would see an increase of \$200 million. Cities, public transportation, and the general fund would benefit as well, but for our purposes here, I'll stick to the school fund-

ing. For complete details of Proposal 1, please review the many articles online.

Regarding school funding, it would also amend the Constitution to make it so School Aide Fund dollars go only to public schools, community colleges, and career and technical education. The amendment would also clearly indicate that School Aide Funds would not go to universities, which have currently been drawing out of the fund to the tune of \$200 million. Universities would go back to being funded fully through the state's general fund. The amendment would also disallow the government from reaching into the fund to make up for shortfalls in other areas of government. You may have been aware of the state's proposal to use \$250 million of our school aide to offset the deficit related to the business tax? The amendment would ensure the fund would stay intact without being raided for other purposes.

There is further motivation for me to share with you the impact on school funding related to Proposal 1. There hasn't been much written regarding what happens if Proposal 1 fails, and this is a concern. Should Proposal 1 not pass on May 5, the proposed back up plan would eliminate the sales tax on gas

while increasing the wholesale excise tax on fuel. The fuel tax revenues would only be used for our roads and as a result, school districts are estimating that they could lose \$400 to \$500 per student. In Durand, with roughly 1,500 students, it represents a loss of \$600,000 to \$750,000 in revenue. That amount of a loss would more than wipe out our fund equity with the end result being increased class sizes and sweeping cuts in programing and staff with fewer services to our students. After the past ten years of basically flat funding levels for schools without increases, our staff and students have seen enough cuts; they have already been asked to do more with less.

If my job is to advocate for our students and their education, it goes without saying that it is also my job to communicate with our community regarding the impact of the legislation the state has put before the voters in the form of Proposal 1. 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.