

# **The Barker**

---

## **De Smet Education Foundation**

“Established 2003 for the purpose of enhancing the education of the students enrolled in the De Smet School District in the fields of academics, the arts and athletics.”

November 2020 - Issue Eight

### **CAMP INVENTION**

Laura Ingalls Wilder Elementary has been partnering with the National Inventors Hall of Fame to host Camp Invention in De Smet since 2013. Camp Invention is the country's leading program inspiring creativity, innovation and STEM interest in a week-long summer adventure. Camp is held in June and open to all area students. Campers have the opportunity to “invent, build, take things apart and to create new projects.” The 2019 camp marked the seventh year the camp has been held here. Attendance averages 40 students. De Smet Education Foundation has been a supporter of this project by donating funds for camp scholarship for district students who wish to attend. Cost per child is \$230. Due to COVID 19 no camp was held the summer of 2020. There is no cost for the school, district or teachers.

### **NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT**

There is a beautiful new addition to the playground at Laura Ingalls Wilder Elementary School. The local PTA initiated a fund raising campaign to purchase handicap accessible play equipment for LIW. This was no small undertaking—the estimated cost of the project was \$150,000. The committee was not deterred and set about promoting the plan. Fund raising was successful. This playground is safe and handicap accessible. It is one more welcoming feature to “The Little Town on the Prairie” for overnight family tourists as well. The De Smet Education Foundation was happy to support this project by donating a total of \$5000 given in installments (2017 and 2018).

### **TIME FOR A TUNE-UP**

It is time to tune-up the music department's inventory of old instruments. Director Vockrodt is systematically tackling the job of bringing all instruments into good working condition. She feels students should be able to learn on the best quality instruments possible. She is working with Taylor Music to determine which instruments should be traded in and which can be cleaned and repaired. The woodwind section will be the first section to be updated. The Board voted to give \$1000 to assist with this project so band students have the opportunity to be proud of the music they create.

### **FOR THE LOVE OF ART**

The Laura Ingalls Wilder elementary now receives art instruction from the HS/MS art instructor, Mrs. Rusche. Since she does not have a designated classroom in the LIW building, she must travel from room to room. The remedy for this situation—a mobile cart. The Education Foundation was happy to use donations received in memory of Darrie (Freeman) Diamond to purchase a cart. Mrs. Rusche REALLY appreciates the cart as it makes things much easier.

### **WHAT'S COOKING NEXT SUMMER**

A request from the Family and Consumer Science (FACS) Teacher for the purchase of equipment and supplies was received. Items purchased would become a permanent part of the kitchens. Ms Ostrander would like to offer a Cooking Series the summer of 2021. Students would be encouraged to cook with a family member or friend. Students that have taken FACS Cooking Classes would be able to join in as junior assistant teachers. Topics covered would include a wide variety of topics—from kitchen and food safety and sanitation to baking to dietary cooking to meal preparation. The Foundation was supportive of this unique opportunity for students to learn a skill they can always use.

### **THANK YOU**

The De Smet Education Foundation is happy to be able to support our school and appreciates the dedication of its staff. Their willingness to give of their time and talent beyond what is expected in the interest of providing the best possible education for students is admirable. COVID 19 has added additional challenges and time commitments. The De Smet staff and administration has met these challenges and to that we say THANK YOU!! And, to the DHS alumni and friends, we say THANK YOU for your continued support in making these funds available. We are proud of the Bulldogs!

### **THANK YOU FOR THESE MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

Beginning in March 2017 through November 2020 the memory of the following people was honored with a donation to the Education Foundation. Thank you to all contributors.

Gayle (Hannah) Albee	Todd Askew	Janice (Olson) Asleson
James Baszler	Marvel (Meyers) Buchanan	Joy Ward Carroll
James T. Clark	Andrew A. Close	Treva (Olson) Collett
Darrie (Freeman) Diamond	Marlene (Leckey) Dubill	Roger Julian Eggen
Lana (Dannenbring) Eichstadt	Donald Dale Freeman	John W. Fox
Delores Gross	Jerome (Jerry) Gruenhagen	Julie (Ward) Gutzmer
Delores (Dee) Halverson	Richard Halverson Jr.	Shawn Hansen
David A. Harris	Bret Hof	Dr. Clinton Hof
Rodney H. Holland	Janet (Muser) Holland	Richard Powell Holm
Donald (Don) Irvin	Gus Jacob	Brenda (Bucholz) Jennings
George Wendel Johnson	Mary (Braun) Jensen	David C. Karlen
Alyce (Smith) Klinkel	Lester (Les) A. Klinkel	Lola (Wehrkamp) Klinkel
Thomas "Tom" Leckey	David Lynn Lee	Janelle Parkhurst) Martens
Gary Dean Marx	Donald McCaskell	Janice (Rousar) McCaskell

Marc Mundhenke	William "Bill" Muser	Marcia D. Olson
Brooke (Penney) Muhlenkort	Thomas "Tom" Peckenpaugh	Donna Pommer
Mitchell "Mitch" Pratt	Jean Slaight	H. James "Jim" Stover
Jerry Tounsley	Roy Wade	Kathleen Lorraine (Coughlin) Widman
Donald E. G. Wendel	Brian "Stump" Wilkins	Donald L. Wolkow
Eileen (Weerts) Wolkow		

**THANK YOU ALUMNI FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT (received between March 2017 through October 2020)**

**"Bulldog Club" \$500+**

Ron Williamson (3)

**"Gold Club" \$150-\$499**

Gary and Judy Marx

Lowell and Judy (Olson) Richards

**"Maroon Club" \$51-\$149**

In honor of Audrea (Coughlin) Rodney's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday by De Smet School staff and students

**"D Club" \$50 or Less**

In honor of Dr. David and Yvonne Dobson 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary by Eugene and Mary Weerts

**WEB ADDRESSES**

Keep current of school and community activities by visiting these websites: School – [www.desmet.k12.sd.us](http://www.desmet.k12.sd.us) (find the Education Foundation under the Educational Support Groups heading then Education Enhancement) City – [www.desmet.sd.com](http://www.desmet.sd.com) Reunion – De Smet Alumni Facebook

The De Smet Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization incorporated with the State of South Dakota and registered as a 501(c)(3) organization with the United States Internal Revenue Department. All contributions are tax deductible.

**Current Board Members**

Thank you Jason Baszler and Norman Koehlmoos for your time serving as a board member. Welcome Julie Coughlin and Jared Tozin new board members.

Julie (Smith) Coughlin '85	Connie (Steen) Geyer '77	Val (Widman) Pirlet '63
Lowell Richards '54	Greg Skyberg '66	Jared Tozin '98
Eugene Weerts '71	Ron Williamson '59	