



News From The Hill

THE DUNKERTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Aug-Oct '14

Here we are, almost to the end of the first trimester already. It seems school only started a few weeks ago. Like every year, we have some new faces. If you see them, make sure to introduce yourself so they know who you are and who you belong with. Many of you have already met our new staff members, but here is the list, just in case you have not: Ms. Bloomquist, Secondary Language Arts; Ms. Bonnicksen, Secondary Language Arts; Mr. Carlin, PK-6 Principal; Ms. Day, 5-12 Vocal Music; Ms. Jellings, Elementary Special Education; Ms. Knepper, K-4 Vocal Music; Mr. Meyer, Secondary Social Studies; Mr. Smith, Elementary Guidance; Ms. Steinkerchner, Secondary Language Arts; Ms. Zaputil, 5th Grade.

We also have a couple of our veteran teachers switching roles. Ms. Sires will be the Special Education Services Coordinator for the District in addition to her Special Education teaching duties, Mr. Brungard will be moving from 3rd grade to Secondary Social Studies, and Ms. Brandle will be moving from Special Education to 3rd Grade.

We recently received some GREAT NEWS from the State Department of Education. I first received an email with a follow up official letter telling us how we did in meeting the mandates established by the No Child Left Behind Act. These are the criteria that land schools on the infamous

Back in the Saddle Again

By James Stanton, Superintendent

SINA and DINA lists. Overall there are 12 categories in which we are monitored for compliance. This is at a time when these standards are being raised at the fastest levels since NCLB started in 2000, and the next step is 100% of our students must meet proficiency levels.

Despite all of this, we met in 11 of the 12 categories! As a District, we are **not** on any DINA lists, not even the DINA watch list. The secondary is on SINA 2 level in Math and in delay for Reading, and the elementary is on delay for Math and on nothing for Reading. Yes, you read that right, the elementary is not even on the watch list in Reading.

That is nothing short of fantastic! This is a tribute to the teachers, students, and staff at Dunkerton Schools. In a time when compliance and proficiency levels are climbing at the fastest rate in the history of the NCLB, we met in 11 of the 12 categories. This is a wonderful testimony to the hard work and effort the students and staff are putting forth in our classrooms. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE STAFF AND STUDENTS ON A JOB WELL DONE!!

Congratulations to the Raider Cross Country Team which ended the season ranked 13th in the state in Class 1A. They won the Conference Championship at the HS level, and

Ben Reams was conference champion at the JH level. The team also finished 5th out of 22 teams at the district competition, which featured some of the best runners and teams in the state. Jordan Yessak qualified for the state meet (he finished 3rd out of 162). Congratulations to Coach Thompson and the Cross Country Team on a great season.

Our certified enrollment is finally finished and turned in to the state. We will not know for sure what our numbers will be until after this goes to press, but we are very close to being the same number as last year. Good news is that we are not shrinking, bad news is that our certified number was down 12 last year from the previous year. I am looking on the bright side and am glad that our number did not decline, as most schools in the state are facing falling enrollment. Over 78% of the schools in Iowa are experiencing falling enrollment. I am glad we are not one of them.

Thank you for your support in making Dunkerton a great place to live and Dunkerton Schools a great place to be a kid! As always, thanks to the taxpayers of our community for supporting the school, we couldn't do it without you! Our doors are always open, so stop in anytime for a visit.

Stay in touch,

jstanton@dunkerton.k12.k12.ia.us

From the Music Department

Many exciting things are happening in the Dunkerton Music Department this year! We welcome Miss Allison Day as the 5-12 chorus teacher and Mrs. Nichole Knepper as the K-4 music teacher. We wish them a successful year!

The Dunkerton High School Music Department will present its annual Swing Show on Friday and Saturday, November 7 & 8 at 7:00 p.m. This is our annual fundraiser concert that pays for entry fees for contests and honors festivals throughout the year and will feature the DHS Raider Jazz Band, Show and Jazz Choir, skits, and soloists. Cost is \$5 per ticket, and seating is reserved. Tickets can be purchased by calling Julie Magee in the HS office at [319-822-4295](tel:319-822-4295). We will also have a free-will spaghetti supper prior to the Saturday show from 5:00-6:30. We would encourage all Dunkerton Swing Show alumni to attend this concert, as this will be the last swing show ever in the auditorium.

This year we had over 20 elementary, JH, and HS students audition for the Iowa Opus Honor Choir. Each student gave an excellent audition. This led to the beginning of the 5th and 6th Grade Chorus. We have two students auditioning for the Iowa All-State Music Festival. Best wishes Adam Manahl and Andrew Winkers!

The DHS Concert Choir will be performing at the Iowa Star Conference Choir Festival at Don Bosco on November 17. At the festival, the choir will be singing with the mass ensemble, as well as performing a piece individually.

December brings our annual holiday music concerts. The K-6 concert will be on Thursday, December 4 at 7 p.m. in the high school gym. This will feature our K-6 general music classes, and 5th and 6th chorus. Come early—seats fill quickly!

Monday, December 8 is the 7-12 music concert. This will feature the JH Band, JH Chorus, HS Concert Band, and HS Concert Choir.

Curb Appeal

The Dunkerton High School's Curb Appeal group will be raking leaves for citizens of Dunkerton throughout the months of October and November. If you want to sign up or need more information, please contact Hannah Peacock in the following ways: hpeacock@dunkerton.k12.ia.us or [319-822-4295 extension 165](tel:319-822-4295). There are also sign-up sheets at Quick Star, Everlast Car and Truck, and Rivers Edge Hair Salon.

In recognition and honor of their donation and service to the Dunkerton Community, on September 9th a group of five students from Dunkerton's Curb Appeal Club made chili, chili dogs, homemade brownies, and rolls and served this hot meal to the Dunkerton Fire and Ambulance volunteers at their monthly meeting.

As one group member states, "The members of this group prefer not to be named as we didn't do this for personal recognition but rather to give back, recognize, and support the wonderful community members we

have supporting the Dunkerton community. Their volunteerism and dedication to the community doesn't go un-noticed and we wanted them to know that."

Raider Rewards

Hopefully you have heard about **Raider Rewards**. PTO started this scrip program at Dunkerton Schools five years ago, and they have turned it over to Fine Arts Boosters for a couple years. Users of the program have earned our school THOUSANDS of dollars for students' needs. In case you don't know about it, here's a simple explanation: Because we are a non-profit organization, we are able to purchase gift cards at a discounted price. Every time you buy one of these cards from us at face value, you get 100% of the value you paid for, AND we get to keep the difference for our FAB students. It's a win-win situation!

Consider using RR for everything you need (like groceries, household goods, and eating out) plus for gift-giving. We have dozens of cards available in the high school office and at the Dunkerton branch of Farmer's State Bank. Every card you buy helps Fine Arts students! Thanks for your support!

Four Year Trip Update

There is a Mandatory Parent Meeting November 3rd from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. in the high school commons before the Powder Puff game. Parent/guardian attendance at this meeting is a requirement for your 9-12 student to participate in the trip this coming April. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Traci Wolfensperger at twolfensperger@dunkerton.k12.ia.us to make other arrangements. Information that will be covered at the meeting includes: chaperone application/selection process, student behavior agreement, trip itinerary, trip expectations, and related topics. We look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you to all the community, students, staff, and parents that helped to make our first Carnival a success. We raised just over \$1,100 which will be added to the trip fund. Everyone's efforts were greatly appreciated.

A Memorable Year for Cross Country

With 10 HS Boys, 5 HS girls, and 5 JH runners, we had one of the biggest squads ever. Highlights included the boys winning the conference championship, and the girls finishing a solid 4th. Ben Reams was the winner of 2 races this year, a 2 mile and 1 mile race and was JH conference champ. Alicia Wilder was runner-up at conference and set a new JH record in the 2 mile race. Peter Kauten, Collin Conger and Sam Steffen made the top 20 list, and Alecia Kimball made the top 20 list for girls. Jordan Yessak had 10 top 10 races and was conference runner-up. Jordan, John Davis, Peter Kauten, and Emilee Miller were named all-conference. Jordan finished 3rd at Districts and qualified for state, with the boys having a solid performance of 5th out of 27 teams. The boys were ranked for the 1st time ever at 13th for over 3 weeks. Jordan reached 13th individually and may climb a few places after beating 4 runners ranked ahead of him at Districts. With 5 of the top 7 runners coming back, we should have an excellent team next fall. We also say goodbye to 4 seniors who put in 18 years of hard work between them: Andrew Winkers, Brett Rathe, Sam Steffen, and Emilee Miller will be missed!

--Coach Thompson

11th Grade English

As we are finishing the first trimester, the juniors are working hard to finish the novel, Catcher in the Rye. We have been analyzing the different chapters, discussing tone, and learning about the origin of the title (because it's so odd!) The students are busy learning how to use quotations correctly (and cite them) and how to use figurative language. They created posters portraying the literal and figurative meanings of things that Holden says throughout the book. Students have also created "Instagram posts" from characters in the book. They

turned out really well and are hung up in my room if anyone is interested in viewing them.



"Brain Breaks" have recently been added to our class routine in order to break up the period and give the students a brief "off time." This has worked wonderfully – the students enjoy getting to play Rock-Paper-Scissors in the middle of class!

12th Grade English

Seniors are working incredibly hard on their final projects – a Multigenre Research Project. For these projects, students were allowed to choose their own topic. Topics vary from NFL teams to singers to Walt Disney to Mathews Bows. Most have really delved into their projects.



Jacob Cox is creating a Patriotopoly – he's Modge Podged pictures and names of Patriot players onto the board and cards to create a Monopoly board that he and his family will be able to use in the future. Morgan Finck is busy creating several hilarious artifacts for her topic, Channing Tatem, including short stories, a eulogy, and a picture book. Bailey Epling is

creating a variety of artifacts for her topic, Jennie Finch, including a brochure to a softball camp. Lane Johnson chose a topic that he is passionate about – Mathews, Inc. Bows – and has created several awesome artifacts about them, including an informational Power Point and a Mathews, Inc. Bows 2015 launch. I'm extremely excited for the students to complete and turn in their projects; I will keep their projects around my room for anyone interested in checking them out!

–Ms. Bonnichsen



2nd Grade Goes on a Field Trip

In September the second grade students attended the Discovery Program at Cattle Congress sponsored by Iowa State Extension. Students spent the morning in small group sessions learning about chickens, dairy cattle, and sheep. In the afternoon the students attended a workshop on horses as well as a cattle show. The class enjoyed touring the petting zoo and animal barns and getting to touch (and smell!) the cattle, hogs, chickens, horses, rabbits, and sheep. Mrs. Rathe's class is pictured in the one room schoolhouse on the Cattle Congress grounds. This school was located northwest of Dunkerton and donated to Cattle Congress by members of the David Magee family. This was the first time that David's grandson, Malaki, had visited the schoolhouse.

Fall Activities Update

I thought I would take a moment and give an update on all of the Fall Activities that have taken place this year. It has been a great season for many of our activities. Our High School Volleyball team had one of their best seasons in recent years as they compiled a record of 16-8. They also won the North Tama tournament. The kids played well together all season long and have taken strides to improve.

Our Cross Country teams had an outstanding season, as well. Our girls' team finished fourth at the first ever conference meet held at Wartburg College. Our boys team won the meet and are the first ever Iowa Star Conference Cross Country Champions. Our boys also broke into the rankings for the first time in many years as they got to as high as #13 overall. They came up just short at the District Meet at Nashua Plainfield finishing 5th (top 3 teams advance). Jordan Yessak did qualify for the state meet as he finished 3rd at the District Meet (top 10 runners advance). At the state meet in Fort Dodge, Jordan finished 33rd out of 134 runners. Jordan also was ranked throughout the season getting to as high as #12.

The football team ended their season with a 2-7 record.

Our Jazz Choir has the opportunity to sing the National Anthem at the State Volleyball Tournament next week. Our Marching Band had the opportunity to perform at UNI on Saturday as well. Our Fine Arts programs have really developed some wonderful talent.

--Mr. Yessak, Athletic Director

Raider Band at UNI

On Saturday, 22 members of the high school band traveled to UNI to play for UNI Band Day. Our kids combined with the 330 member UNI Marching Band and over 450 other high school students to present a very entertaining halftime show. It was a great chance to show our kids what kinds of musical opportunities lie within their own backyard.

Basketball Donation Scrimmage

Come support the Dunkerton Girls JV and Varsity Basketball teams as they take on Vinton-Shellsburg on Saturday, November 22 at 5 p.m. in the Dunkerton High School gym. This will be a donation scrimmage game in which the entry fee will be a monetary donation or care package donation that will be sent to troops overseas. For more information contact Dunkerton Community Schools. Ideas of acceptable donations are on the Dunkerton website.

Take Charge of Your Body

Take Charge of Your Body presentations will be made in K-6 classrooms the week of November 10. The "Take Charge of Your Body" Program is a sexual abuse prevention program which was developed in 1985 by professionals (teachers, school counselors, social workers) from the Cedar Valley.

This program is presented in elementary schools by trained staff and volunteers from the Family and Children's Council. *The primary goal of the program is to teach children about safety with touching and how to respond to unsafe situations that some children find themselves facing.*

Sexual abuse prevention is NOT a one-time, heart-to-heart talk with children about stranger danger. Prevention MUST be on-going throughout a child's maturation, and messages MUST come from all areas of a child's life, including home, school, church, and other community groups.

We believe that teaching sexual abuse prevention at school, along with parents reinforcing this message at home, is the most effective means of protecting children from sexual abuse.

An informational parent meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 4, beginning at 6 p.m. in the ICN room. We invite you to attend this meeting to learn more about issues addressing sexual abuse prevention at home, as well as learn about the "Take Charge of Your Body" Program.

Veterans Day Program



5th and 6th graders will have a short Veterans Day program on November 11 at 8:30 a.m. in the gym to honor those who have served our country. All veterans are invited to come!

Raider Rewards Order Form

Updated
8/5/14

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Date: _____

Email: _____

Retailer	\$	Qty	Total
Applebee's 8%	25		
Barnes & Noble 9%	10		
Bath and Body Works 13%	25		
Best Buy 3%	25		
Buffalo Wild Wings 8%	25		
Burger King 4%	10		
CVS 6%	25		
Darden (Olive Garden/Red Lobster/Longhorn) 9%	25		
Dick's Sporting Goods 8%	25		
Fareway 3%	50		
GameStop 3%	25		
iTunes 5%	15		
Kohl's 4%	25		
Kwik Star 9%	25		
	100		
Marcus Theaters 9%	25		
McDonald's 7%	10		
Menard's 3%	25		
	100		
Other Place 5%	10		
Panera 9%	10		
Pizza Hut 8%	10		
Starbucks 7%	10		
Subway 3%	10		
Target 2.5%	25		
Texas Roadhouse 8%	25		
Walmart/Sam's Club 2.5%	25		
	100		



Available for purchase:

1. At Farmers State Bank, Dunkerton
2. Send order form and payment to any school office
3. Visit the high school office during school hours

***Please make checks payable to
Dunkerton PTO.**

*Don't see the gift card you want?
Check out www.glscip.com for a list
of over 500 retailers we can order for
you!

___ Call/Email me when order is
ready and I'll pick it up.
___ Please send my order home with

(Signature)

Date submitted: _____

Sold by: _____

Limited Stock!

Updated
8/5/14

Retailer	\$	Qty	Total
Amazon 3%	25		
Barmuda 16%	20		
Barnes & Noble 9%	25		
Bath & Body 13%	10		
Bed, Bath & Beyond 7%	25		
BedandBreakfast.com 10%	50		
Carlos O'Kelly's 9%	10		
Children's Place 13%	25		
Chuck-E-Cheese 8%	10		
Crazy 8's 13%	25		
Family Christian 9%	25		
JC Penney 5%	25		
Oriental Trading 9%	25		
Panda Express 8%	25		
Papa Johns 8%	10		
Papa Murphy's 8%	10		
Q'doba 7%	25		
Shutterfly 9%	25		
Taco Bell 5%	10		
Target 2.5%	10		
Target 2.5%	100		
Toys R Us 3%	20		
Walgreens 6%	25		
Walmart/Sam's Club 2.5%	10		