

# District **DIALOGUE**

A newsletter for residents of the DeForest Area School District

May 2007

## Students learn to "lead with assets"

Over 90 DeForest Area School District 6<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> graders participated in a very special youth training on April 11<sup>th</sup>. They were joined by 14 adult mentors from the DeForest Area School staff and community.

The day long training centered around the SEARCH Institute's 40 Assets. The goal of the student training, entitled "Leading With Assets," was to "empower youth from middle school and high school to create lasting, positive change in their school and community."

In the training, student participants explored:

- building powerful relationships with students and staff;
- determining what personal assets they have (their strengths) and what assets are built in successful projects;
- assessing school climate and impacting change; and
- putting leadership skills into action.

All students left the training at the end of the day with a detailed action plan and follow-up expectations.

The presenter for the day was James Vollbracht, a SEARCH Institute trainer, speaker, and author with over 20 years of experience empowering individuals, communities, and organizations, to support the positive development of our youth. He kept students and mentors actively involved throughout the training session.

With the mentors' help and support, students will be carrying out their plans to promote the 40 assets in their schools and community, ultimately enhancing their school's climate and culture.

For more information about 40 Assets contact Jim Kohlmetz, 842-6500.



*High school English teacher Josh Juergens listens as students discuss improving their school.*



*Middle school students document their ideas.*



*Students present their action plans.*

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[www.deforestcalendar.org](http://www.deforestcalendar.org)



*School board member Sue Paulson helps out as a community mentor.*



*SEARCH Institute trainer James Vollbracht leads students through several activities.*

The mission of the DeForest Area School District is to provide an excellent education by engaging, challenging, and inspiring all students to pursue their full potential.

**Special Presentation for Community**

*Learn more about the disastrous effects of driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.*

**Mock Crash Simulation**

**Thursday, May 24 • 7:00 pm**

**DeForest Area High School South Parking Lot  
815 Jefferson Street, DeForest**

This Driving Under the Influence drill includes a mock accident scene, including the "death" of a peer or friend, and demonstrates all aspects of DUI – police, EMS and fire personnel response; using the "jaws of life" extrication equipment; performing "triage;" transporting patients via ambulance; and arresting the offenders.  
It may not be suitable for young children.

**Mock Crash Simulation**

High school seniors will be participating in a mock crash simulation on Thursday, May 24 at 9 am. An evening presentation is being offered to adults in the community the same day at 7:00 pm.

The event is taking place thanks to the coordinated efforts of several groups: DeForest Area High School, DeForest Area Fire/EMS Department, DeForest Police Department, DeForest Area Joining Forces for Families, Dane County Sheriffs Department, and the Wisconsin State Patrol. The hope is to prevent such crashes from occurring in our community.

For more information, contact Tim Onsager, DAHS Principal, at 842-6600 or Lieutenant Dan Furseth at 846-6655.

**High school seniors get dose of "reality"**

DeForest Area High School and the DeForest Area Chamber of Commerce have teamed up to co-sponsor "Reality Day" – an interactive, hands-on, authentic experience for high school seniors to learn about money management first hand. The students have selected their potential careers and are ready to put their financial skills to the test. Each student enters the event with a family status and a paycheck. Several business volunteers will be ready to assist them in purchasing life's necessities – housing, transportation, groceries, and more. The truth of life's responsibilities sets in quickly as students make their first stop at the tax station. Several other twists await them while inside Reality Day. Students will pay for insurance, utilities, daycare, and many other monthly expenses. Reality Day will be held at the North Star Conference Center at Comfort Inn & Suites on Tuesday, May 22 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Volunteers are needed throughout the morning. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Debbie Brewster, 842-6581, or [dbrewster@deforest.k12.wi.us](mailto:dbrewster@deforest.k12.wi.us).

**Students test their financial literacy**

If your credit card is stolen and the thief runs up a total debt of \$1,000, but you notify the issuer of the card as soon as you discover it is missing, what is the maximum amount that you can be forced to pay according to Federal law? If you said \$50, you and 31% of high school seniors, are correct.

This was one of over 30 financial literacy questions asked of DeForest Area High School seniors this past fall. The survey, taken from the Jump Start Coalition, was given to students in preparation for their "Reality Day," scheduled for May 22 at the Comfort Inn & Suites in DeForest.

Students were asked questions about insurance, credit, savings accounts, taxes, borrowing money, earning power, retirement planning and more. Other questions related to their own financial practices and opinions.

Approximately 67% of the senior class took the survey. According to the results, 72% of them do not use a credit card. Almost half of them drive their own car and help pay for the insurance. Over half subtract every check and ATM withdrawal from their checkbook balance and have never bounced a check. But



only a third of them knew which type of investment yields the highest growth over a long period of time or that income tax may be charged on savings account interest if your income is

high enough.

While not every financial aspect they may encounter will be presented on the May 22 Reality Day, school staff and Chamber members are hopeful that through this interactive day students will come away with a better understanding of how to write checks, balance a checkbook, keep track of finances and make good career choices.

A copy of the financial literacy survey results can be found on the district website at: [www.deforest.k12.wi.us](http://www.deforest.k12.wi.us) > For Community (under the School/Community Partnerships heading).

**DAHS Reality Day**  
(for current 12th grade students)  
**Tuesday, May 22, 2007**  
8:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Comfort Inn & Suites

***Volunteers needed!***  
Call 842-6581



**Island Style Celebration**

May 6  
Location: Waisman Center - Children's Theater, 1500 Highland Ave. – Auditorium, Madison

Wear your hula skirts and flowered shirts and head to the garden for an afternoon of "tropical pop" musical fun with Od Tapo Imi steel drum band. Make rhythm shakers and hats with an island flare. Face-painting and bubbles! Bring your cameras. This event is FREE. Enter the garden at the far west end of the parking lot. (Admission for all other shows, except Films in the Field.) Rain or shine. Show is from 2 pm to 4 pm. For more information call 608-263-5837.

**International Crane Foundation Free Admission Weekend**

May 12 - 13  
Location: International Crane Foundation, E11376 Shady Lane Road, Baraboo, WI

Mom and the entire family will delight in the delicate beauty of ICF's woodland wildflowers and thrill in the sights and sounds of the cranes as they perform their graceful courtship dances and unison calls. For more information: <http://www.savingcranes.org> or call 608.356.9462.

**Saris Spoke Out Bike and Walk**

May 12  
Location: Olin-Turville Park, 1155 E Lakeside St, off of John Nolen Dr., Madison, WI  
Time: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Join Prevent Child Abuse Wisconsin for the 15th Annual SARIS Spoke Out Bike and Walk to Prevent Child Abuse. Participate in the 30-Mile Bike Tour Loop to Cottage Grove and McFarland area, a 12-mile Lake Monona Loop Ride or a 2-mile Walk along Monona Bike/Walking path. Registration starts at 9:00 a.m. with the Send-off at 9:30 a.m. Refreshments, Prizes and Family Entertainment begins at 11:00 a.m. Register online or day of the event. For more information: <http://www.preventchildabusewi.org> or call 608-256-3374.

**Cystic Fibrosis Foundation GREAT STRIDES Walk**

May 20  
Location: Henry Vilas Zoo, Vilas Park & Zoo, Madison, WI  
Time: 9:00 – 1:00 pm

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation GREAT STRIDES walk is a great chance for friends and family to get join together and have fun, and of course raise funds, for a great cause. You can either walk 1 mile or 6.2 miles. And prizes can be earned based on how much money is raised. Use our online fundraising tools at [www.cff.org/greatstrides](http://www.cff.org/greatstrides).

**Personal Finance Day Camp**

June 18-22 and June 25-29, 2007  
Location: Edgewood College Campus, Madison, WI  
The Youth Power Academy of Finance camp is open to Madison-area 7th-10th grade students. It teaches the economic skills students need to succeed in high school and beyond. This is a 10-day summer program where students will learn how our free-market economy works and their role in it. Find out how the economic choices you make today can mean success tomorrow. Admission is limited and competitive. All applications received by May 25 are guaranteed consideration. Application forms are available at DeForest Area High School and DeForest Area Middle School.

*Sponsored by Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Edgewood College Economic Education Center, Capital Times Kids Fund, Wisconsin State Journal Youth Services, Inc., Mosaic Funds, and Asset Builders of America, Inc.*

**5th Annual Chris McHugh "Comedy for a Cure" Friday, May 4, 2007**



Gift Basket Auction/Spaghetti Dinner 6:00 pm  
Comedy Show 7:00 pm  
North Star Conference Center at Comfort Inn & Suites, DeForest

*Introducing Milwaukee's Funny-Woman*  
**Kathleen Dunbar**  
More laughs provided by Benny Richgruber, James Booth and other area students and adults!

**Tickets:**  
Comedy Show Only: Spaghetti Dinner & Comedy Show:  
Adults \$10 - Students \$5 Adults \$13 - Students \$8

Save a Buck Family Pack:  
2 adults & 2 kids under 10 = \$35

Tickets available at: DMB Community Bank, Choose Hope, Inc. (846-4707), Comfort Inn & Suites, Tony or Renee (220-7897 or 220-1110), DeForest Area Chamber of Commerce (846-2922)

**(TAG) Talented & gifted opportunities for students and parents**

A list of academic opportunities is available for students and parents. If you would like to learn more about TAG opportunities within the district, please contact Peter O'Neil, Director of Instruction, at 842-6531 or email him at [jponeil@deforest.k12.wi.us](mailto:jponeil@deforest.k12.wi.us). Contact Dianne Weigle at 842-6532 for informational brochures on these activities.

New list of opportunities can be downloaded from the district website at: [www.deforest.k12.wi.us](http://www.deforest.k12.wi.us) - "For Parents".



Enjoy student musical and drama performances throughout the month of May. Visit [www.deforestcalendar.org](http://www.deforestcalendar.org) - School Activities and Events - for dates and times.



**National Volunteer Week**  
**April 23-27, 2007**

**Staff Appreciation Week**  
**May 7-11, 2007**

The *District Dialogue* is a newsletter for residents of the DeForest Area School District. It is given to building principals to add to their individual school newsletters and is distributed to organizations throughout our community. *District Dialogue* represents another step in our commitment to improve communication with parents and the community at large.

**Superintendent of Schools**

Jon Bales, Ph.D.  
DeForest Area School District  
520 E. Holum Street  
DeForest, WI 53532  
(608) 842-6577

**Board of Education**

Jan Berg, President  
Sue Paulson, Vice President  
Mike Hirsch, Clerk  
Glenn Olson, Treasurer  
Judy Ecker  
Dave Miller  
Marty Palus  
Trisha Rodekamp  
Steve Tenpas

If you would like to be added to the mailing list or if you have questions or comments, please contact the Office of School/Community Relations  
(608) 842-6581

**On the Web:**  
[www.deforest.k12.wi.us](http://www.deforest.k12.wi.us)

**Email:**  
[districtdialogue@deforest.k12.wi.us](mailto:districtdialogue@deforest.k12.wi.us)

**School Closing/Delay Hotline:**  
(608) 842-6668

*The DeForest Area School District does not discriminate against pupils on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap in its education programs or activities.*

**D**istrict Dialogue

DeForest Area School District  
520 E. Holum Street  
DeForest, WI 53532  
(608) 842-6500

**[www.deforestcalendar.org](http://www.deforestcalendar.org)**