

District **DIALOGUE**

A newsletter for residents of the DeForest Area School District

April 2007

Background checks for volunteers

Each year nearly 500 individuals volunteer in our schools. The DeForest Area School District recognizes the valuable services these volunteers contribute to students and staff. At the same time, the safety and well being of District students and staff is of paramount importance.

Therefore, effective with the start of the 2007-08 school year, all adults who volunteer in the schools for educational purposes and school-sponsored activities will be subject to a Wisconsin criminal background check. Individuals will not be allowed to volunteer in the schools until a criminal background check has been conducted. Parents/individuals who only volunteer in the capacity of guest speakers in a classroom or for a one-time event (such as science fair, craft fair, etc.) do not need to complete a volunteer application form. Criminal background checks will be repeated every four years that the volunteer remains in active status with the District.

Volunteers are being notified of this new policy through *District Dialogue*, PTOs and school newsletters. Background check forms will be available to all current volunteers in April and May so they have an opportunity to complete the form before the end of the school year. At the start of the next school year, any parents who have not already completed a background check will be issued a new form. Our goal is to have conducted background checks for anyone who wants to volunteer in our schools by the first or second week of September. A list of volunteers who have been cleared by the District will be available for teachers so they can check at any time to see who is an approved volunteer to help in the classroom or with school sponsored activities.

School safety plans part of continuous improvement efforts

As a school district it is our shared goal with our community to establish and maintain a safe learning environment for our children and the staff dedicated to their education on a daily basis. Deliberate and continuous planning occurs in the effort to sustain an atmosphere of good discipline, order and personal safety. To accomplish that, district staff continually review and update our school safety plans and emergency preparedness.

Currently, staff are engaged with key representatives in our community, including law enforcement personnel, fire and EMS officials, and other local emergency management personnel, to update and clarify our emergency preparedness procedures. In this process, the group is drawing from comprehensive planning models such as that advocated by the United States Department of Education (a national standard) and Jane's model for school safety planning.

The purpose of this communication is to share with you four key elements of this planning process.

(1) Prevention/Mitigation - This element addresses the proactive practices and measures in place designed to prevent crime, violence, accidents and disruptive events. Because no open environment can be without risk, it also covers the means by which the district can minimize the negative impact of those events that cannot be prevented or that may occur in spite of reasonable prevention efforts.

(2) Preparedness - This element outlines the training and preparations necessary to ensure staff understand and can meet specific expectations for

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www.deforestcalendar.org

DAHS Spring Musical



April 18, 4:00 pm
Senior citizen preview
with reception

April 19-21, 7:00 pm
April 22, 2:00 pm

Adults - \$5
Students & Senior Citizens - \$3
Suggested PG-13 rating

DeForest Area High School
Performing Arts Center

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.

DASD 2007 Summer Academy

- **Pre-Kindergarten through 6th Grade Programs**
Monday, June 18 – Friday, July 13 (no classes July 4)

Program	Location/Time
Early Learning Program*	Holum Education Center 9:00–11:00 am
Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten Review	Yahara Elementary School 9:00–11:00 am
Grades 1 & 2	Yahara Elementary School 8:15–11:30 am
Grades 3-6, including Cultural Language	DeForest Area Middle School 8:15–11:30 am

* Based on enrollment, Early Learning will meet in one, three-day or two, two-day sessions.

- **All 7th & 8th Grade Programs, including Band**
Monday, June 18 – Friday, June 29 (band will run longer)
8:00 am–2:30 pm ~ 11:30 - Lunch (Students may bring a bag lunch or deposit money in their account to purchase hot lunch.)
- **High School Programs**
Monday, June 18 – Friday, June 29
M-Th: 8:00 am–3:00 pm; F: 8:00 am–12 noon

Physical Science
Biology
English: Broad range of topics covered, allowing a student to earn credit for one semester of any required class.
Social Studies: Broad range of topics covered, allowing a student to earn credit for one semester of any required class.
Math: Students will work on PLATO, which allows for individual programming under the supervision of a math instruction.

- **Cost:** A \$10 fee is charged for each class.
- **Registration:** Please register by May 4.
- **Transportation:** Please remember that the school district does not provide transportation, but will compile a car pool list for families wishing to participate.
- **Questions?** Please contact Phil Jerg, Summer Academy Coordinator, at 842-6831 or pjerg@deforest.k12.wi.us.

Elementary school staff present 2006-07 continuous growth initiatives to school board

Over the course of several months during the 2006-07 school year, the Board of Education engaged in a conversation with each building staff to review the current status of student achievement, the various strategies and systems that are in place to support the professional staff efforts to continuously improve upon all students' performance, and the anticipated adjustments that are necessary to "provide an excellent education".

In February elementary school principals and staff presented their continuous improvement initiatives to the school board. Due to the length of the three documents, those interested in reading the three elementary school plans may do so on the District website at: www.deforest.k12.wi.us > About our District > Continuous Improvement Process and School Plans.

Safety plans

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response and action in the event of an emergency, crisis or disaster.

(3) Response – This element serves to operationalize the preparedness plan to ensure it can be implemented while staff are functioning under emergency conditions. The plan establishes a system for crisis team members to monitor activities during the response phase.

(4) Recovery – This area addresses the specific measures to be implemented to help students, staff, parents and public safety responders cope with the emotional aftermath of traumatic incidents. The recovery plan also outlines the strategy to ensure that the business of education can be resumed and/or continued rapidly and efficiently in the event of significant disruption to facilities and/or systems.

This four-part plan process will be updated annually to ensure it remains current in addressing changing conditions in our rapidly evolving social environment. Our intention is to continually communicate with our entire school community regarding ongoing efforts to create a safe and orderly environment for our students and staff. Look for future information releases as we refine policies and practices at the building and classroom levels to best serve our children.



“Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.”

~Sir James M. Barrie
British writer



REMINDER!

2007 Norski Walk of Honor nominations due April 15
For more information, visit www.deforest.k12.wi.us
For Community > Walk of Honor



Celebrate Madison! 2007 Festival
April 14

Location: Monona Terrace
Community and Convention Center
One John Nolen Dr., Madison
Time: 11:00 am - 6:00 pm

The goal of Celebrate Madison! is to bring together all the ethnic communities of Madison such as Italian, Hispanic, Latino, Native American, German, Asian American, African American at one event to learn and experience each others cultures and traditions. Contact the Monona Terrace at (608) 261-4000 for more information.

Arboretum Family Walk: "Frogs"

April 15

Location: UW Arboretum, 1207 Seminole Highway, Madison
Time: 1:30 - 2:30 pm

Frogs make wonderful sounds in the spring and on summer nights, and they have fascinating life cycles. This will be an introduction to the frogs of the Arboretum.

For more information check out the website: <http://uwarboretum.org>.

2007 UW Varsity Band Spring Concert

April 19 - 21

Location: Kohl Center, 601 W. Dayton St, Madison, WI
Enjoy the whimsical performance of the Wisconsin Band headed by Mike Leckrone. Enjoy music for all ages and tastes, see world-class guest artists and watch as Mike Leckrone summersalts through the air during the spectacular finale! Call or visit the Web site for ticket and concert information.
<http://www.badgerband.com/index.html>.

Earth Day Challenge

April 21

Location: Various Park Locations
Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Join thousands of volunteers as they help get our city parks clean. Call by April 18 to register your group for any of our 260 city parks. For more information and to register call (608) 266-5949.

Girls in Technology Summer Camp



June 26-28, 8 am 3:15 pm
Madison Area Technical College

This fun-filled opportunity will give girls entering grades 6-9 the opportunity to explore the areas of Architecture, Biotechnology, Civil Engineering, Electronics and Information Technology.

Cost: \$15 for entire three-day camp (includes lunch)
Parents are responsible for transportation.
Limited spaces available - enrollment is first-come, first-serve.

DASD Summer Swim Lesson
Registration for in-district residents



Wednesday, May 2, 6-8 pm

DeForest Area High School Little Theater

Out of District residents may register on Wednesday, May 9, 7:30 - 9:00 pm at the DAHS pool.

Lesson Schedule, Fees, and Registration Form

are available on the District website: www.deforest.k12.wi.us > For Community.

DeForest Area Public Library

Get a Clue @ your library



Summer Reading Program 2007

May 29 - August 4

Programs for elementary and middle school age children.

Village of DeForest

Summer Softball and Baseball



Summer Recreation Softball and Baseball Registration deadline is Friday, April 13th. After the deadline late fees will be assessed and teams will be formed until they are full, at which time your child will be placed on a waiting list. For information check the Village of DeForest website at www.vi.deforest.wi.us. Click on 'Park and Recreation Department' and find 'Softball and Baseball Information' or contact Kelli at 846-6751.

Don't forget to grab a 2007 Spring & Summer Recreation Guide! Registration deadlines for some programs are already coming up at the end of April so check out the guide now to survey programs you are interested in! Summer Recreation Guides can be located on the web at www.vi.deforest.wi.us or at the DeForest Area Public Library, DeForest Area Community and Senior Center and other local hot spots.

Town of Windsor

Girls Softball League



Competitive South Central Girls Softball League (SCGS)

Registration/sign-up open house at Windsor Town Hall Thursday March 29

3:30 - 8:00 p.m.

League representatives will be available to answer questions regarding the program.



LINK-ages, DeForest area's intergenerational committee, cordially invites all of our students' grandparents and DeForest area older adults

Annual "Back-to-School" Lunch

DeForest Area Middle School	April 19
Morrisonville Elementary School	May 3
Windsor Elementary School	May 10 or 11
Eagle Point Elementary School	May 16 or 17
Yahara Elementary School	May 16 or 17
DeForest Area High School	April 18
(reception before musical, <i>Grease</i>)	

Contact each school office for more information and reservations, or visit the DASD website at www.deforest.k12.wi.us > For Community.

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

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DeForest Area School District
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(608) 842-6577

Board of Education

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

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
Email:
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.

District Dialogue

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520 E. Holum Street
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(608) 842-6500

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