

Third annual Walk of Honor recognition

Nominations taken until April 15

The DeForest Area School District is currently taking nominations for the third annual Walk of Honor, which recognizes individuals within our greater school community who have demonstrated ongoing commitment and significant contributions to their school district. Honorees may be alumni or former staff members of the DeForest Area School District, or area community members, who best personify the school district's vision and have aided in achieving its ends.

Vision

The DeForest Area School District is committed to a culture that honors knowledge, respects individuals, demands excellence, fosters life-long learning, and supports relationships that strengthen individuals, families and community.

The recognition program will recognize the following:

Alumni - for their outstanding accomplishments while enrolled in the DeForest Area School District as well as achievements following graduation. Alumni may not be considered for nomination until ten years* following their graduation from the DeForest Area School District.

Staff - for their contributions to the DeForest Area School District, as well as the greater school community. Individuals may not be current employees of the school district and may not be considered for nomination until five years* following their completion of employment with the district.

Community members - for their contributions to the DeForest Area School District. Consideration is given to those who demonstrate contributions or service for a minimum of five (5) consecutive years.

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Nomination Forms

Available at:

- DeForest Area Public Library
- DeForest Area Community Center
- DeForest Area School District (all buildings)

A nomination form can also be downloaded from the school district's website: <http://www.deforest.k12.wi.us> - Click on For Community, then Walk of Honor. Deadline for nominations is April 15.

(* may be granted posthumously)

5/12 scholarship program accepting applications

Nominations taken until April 1

Thanks to the generosity of local businesses, two to three 5th grade students will again be chosen to earn a \$1,000 scholarship when they graduate from high school. Sponsored by the DeForest Area School District and the local business community, the program provides 5th grade students an opportunity for on-going financial incentives for academic success.

Teachers may nominate students based on the following criteria: financial need, demonstrated potential, academic achievement, personal involvement, school attendance, and district residency. Parents interested in this opportunity for their child may call 842-6581 for more information.

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www.deforestcalendar.org

Did you know



The DeForest Area School District is one of only three districts in the Madison area with a double A (Aa) Moody's rating. Moody's Investors Services Inc. is one of Wall Street's major credit-rating agencies. They rate municipal bonds issued by school districts, cities, and other public agencies. The higher the rating, the better the financial terms for the issuers.

"Aa" is one of the highest quality ratings of credit worthiness given. According to bond-rating firms, the rating is considered "very high quality, very low credit risk, and very strong capacity for repayment that is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events."



TeachingBooks: This site was created by a Wisconsin company and highlights authors and illustrators through video, interviews, and readings. Whether you are looking for quality reading materials or positive destinations on the web, TeachingBooks has a lot to offer. For example, you can listen and watch recent Caldecott winner Chris Raschka talk about his art work or browse through lists of books organized by theme and grade level. To visit TeachingBooks, please go to www.badgerlink.net and click on TeachingBooks. (**Badgerlink** provides free access to this site for Wisconsin residents.)

Figure This! is from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and has intriguing and challenging math problems for the entire family. For example, here's challenge #5: What letters can be read the same upside down as right-side up? In case you're worried about being stranded with tough challenges, don't worry. The site not only provides the solutions to the challenges, they show their work. To see more Figure This! challenges, please visit www.figurethis.org.

Today in History: The Library of Congress holds vast resources, but each day, they choose a few items to showcase important events in history. For Valentine's Day, they shared love songs from the 1930's and early Edison movies—all of which you may view online. February 15th included pictures and images from the sinking of the U.S.S Maine. Check in each day to learn more about our country's past. You can visit Today in History by going to memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/today.html.

While you're visiting the Library of Congress, you may also wish to check out the other areas of their web site for families: www.loc.gov/families/.

Conway kicks off "40 Assets Week"



Jim Conway, Senior Trainer and Consultant with the Search Institute, kicked off the school district's "40 Assets Week" with an enlightening presentation on Monday, January 30 in the high school PAC. Conway introduced the 40 Developmental Assets and highlighted results of a survey DASH students took in 2004.

- Comments from participants included:
- (from a senior citizen, over 60) "Mr. Conway was really great! Sort of an eye-opener to see how some kids feel. I liked his humor too."
 - (from a young person, under 21) "As a middle school student I really enjoyed learning more about the assets and what I can do to make our community better."
 - (from an adult, age 31-60) "If only more people were here."
 - (from an adult, age 31-60) "I really enjoyed the examples that go hand-in-hand with the assets. I am a mother of a 7-year-old and 4-year-old, and I cannot wait to start using the "40 assets"
 - "Enjoyable! Made me think of how the community really does get involved with teenagers!"
- Other activities throughout the week that helped to promote the "40 Developmental Assets":
- Students made placemats featuring information and drawings relating to the 40 Assets – they were placed in local restaurants.
 - Pizza Hut and Pizza Pit taped 40 Assets flyers to their pizza boxes.
 - Special school menus highlighted the 40 Assets.
 - Special student activities in the schools.

Walk of Honor

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A community-based committee reviews nominations and conducts research of records to select outstanding candidates for the Norski Walk of Honor. The selection committee consists of community members and school representatives such as: alumni, board of education, high school student council officer, member of the clergy association, historical society, chamber of commerce, half-century club, local newspaper, DeForest Area Education Association, DeForest Area Support Staff and DASH administration.

The honorees will be selected this summer and recognized by the school district and community in the fall.

If you have questions about the Norski Walk of Honor, please contact the school district at 842-6577 or 842-6581. Photos from the 2005 induction ceremony are at: <http://www.deforest.k12.wi.us> - For Community - Walk of Honor.

Past inductees include: 2005 - Darwin Bruns, Robert Ethun, and Dale Evans; 2004 - Pat Asmussen, Lisa Heyroth, Elmer McLaughlin, Claire Mulvey, and Woodro "Dutch" Stalder.

5/12 scholarship

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Once awarded, a scholarship follows the student through grade 12. Initially \$200 is deposited into the student's scholarship fund at the end of 5th grade. Students are then monitored each year based on the criteria. \$100 is deposited each successfully completed year from 6th-11th grades; \$200 is again deposited at the end of their 12th year for a total scholarship amount of \$1,000.

Additional information, including nomination forms and copies of the evaluation process are available by calling Debbie Brewster at 842-6581. The deadline for completed nomination forms is April 1. Information about the 5/12 scholarship program is available on the web at: <http://www.deforest.k12.wi.us> - For Community, then 5/12 Scholarship.

Thank you to the following businesses who continue to support the 5/12 Scholarship program: Paulson Construction, Inc., Dr. Julia Edwards, and DMB Community Bank. Community organizations, individuals and businesses wishing to support this program may call 842-6581 for a sponsor form.



Terrace Town 2006
March 4
For more information: <http://www.mononaterrace.com> or phone 608.261.4042.

Madison Children's Museum Free Family Sunday
March 5
Call 608.256.6445 for more information.

Shamrock Shuffle
March 12
For more information: <http://www.shamrock-shuffle.org> or phone 608.223.1301.

A-Z Farm Lambing Barn Tour
March 12, 19, 26
For more information: www.a-zfarm.com or phone 608.835.5553.

Kids Expo
March 18 - 19
For more information: <http://www.kids-expo.com>

News from the Village of DeForest Recreation and Parks Department

Kelli Bialkowski has recently been hired as the Village of DeForest Recreation & Parks Coordinator. As you wait to hear more from the department, please know that the Village will be offering a summer day camp, soccer sign up, summer softball and baseball, and many new and old enrichment classes for youth and adults. The 2006 Summer Recreation Guide should be available to the public by the beginning of April.

Along with their programming and sports offerings, the Recreation and Parks Department is also looking to fill summer job positions. Please call the Department to learn more about positions available. To reach the DeForest Recreation Department call 846-0352 or email bialkowsik@vi.deforest.wi.us.



KINDERGARTEN SCREENING FOR '06-07 SCHOOL YEAR MARCH 17 & 20, 2006

Information has been sent to parents of potential 06-07 kindergarten students. If you did not receive the mailing, but have a child that will be five years old on or before September 1, 2006, please contact Peg Reis at 842-6579 or preis@deforest.k12.wi.us.

Don't miss the 2nd annual DMS Showcase of Talent



Thursday, March 9, 2006 • 5-7 pm
DeForest Area Middle School

Through a variety of media and activities, students in 5th-8th grade will showcase their work in Allied Arts, Music, and PE/Health.

(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. 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 - "For Parents".

Child Development Day

Friday, March 10, 2006

FREE screening for all 3- and 4-year olds
(born between June 2, 2002 and June 1, 2003)

Fine and gross motor skills, pre-academic, speech and language, vision, dental and hearing screening. Several early childhood and family resource organizations also available.

Information was mailed to families in February. If you did not receive information, please call Candy Luell at 842-6528.



Please help keep kids safe!

The red pedestrian flags at the corner of Jefferson Street and Southbound Drive have been replaced for the third time. Please spread the word -- these flags are for our childrens' safety. If you see individuals with these flags anywhere other than at the intersection, please ask them to be returned or contact the Village of DeForest Police Department.



Mark your calendar!

4th Annual Comedy for a Cure

Friday, April 28

DAHS Performing Arts Center

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.
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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
Tony Capozziello
Rick Herschleb
Marty Palus
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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