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Three construction projects well underway!

Three of the five building projects approved by DASD residents in the April 2015 referendum are in the construction phase.

- DeForest Area High School: addition and remodeling of the technology education and agri-science areas to accommodate improvements to current programming and the addition of STEM curriculum. The new and remodeled facilities will be ready for students and staff this fall.
- Eagle Point Elementary School: new school on existing site that will open in fall 2017.
- Windsor Elementary School: remodel of existing school and new addition that will also open in fall 2017.

The construction contractor for all three projects, J.H. Findorff, provides updates every two weeks. Follow these updates, plus photos and time lapse videos, during construction at www.DASDconstruction.org. You can sign up to receive email updates, or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Check out page 2 for more on recent groundbreaking ceremonies and the construction progress!

Online registration for 2016-17 school year opens on July 11

Parents/guardians may begin registering their child(ren) for the 2016-17 school year at noon on Monday, July 11.

Step-by-step instructions guide parents/guardians through the online process. A help hotline is also available. Online registration includes:

- Reviewing and updating student and family information, alert/emergency contacts, and health information
- Receiving important information such as handbooks and notices
- Completing many of the required forms
- Accessing free/reduced meal application and related forms
- Paying student fees and lunch account balance (please note that there is a $2.00 fee for online payments)
- Ordering school pictures (pictures taken on Aug 4 or 8)

Don’t have a Family Access account? Contact your child’s school office to set one up.

On-site: August 4 and 8 -- Parents/Guardians and their child(ren) are also asked to attend an on-site registration
DASD Construction projects, continued

✅ Eagle Point Elementary School

EPES held a groundbreaking celebration on Monday, April 18. Excavation and site preparation continues toward the south. Crews have started forming and pouring footings and foundation walls.

✅ Windsor Elementary School

WES held their groundbreaking celebration on Monday, April 4. Windsor is beginning to take form as the installation of structural steel begins.

✅ DeForest Area High School

A beam signing celebration took place May 17 and 18. Steel columns, roof beams, and joists have been erected and metal roof decking is being installed.

Visit www.DASDconstruction.org for construction updates - Sign up to receive updates every two weeks!

Time lapse videos of construction

Executive summary reports from Findorff project managers
DeForest Area Middle School library chair auction begins August 29

The DeForest Area Middle School 7/8 Library is in the midst of an exciting renovation that will bring student resources, access, and library furnishings up to date. As part of this renovation, the current wood library chairs will be retired. It was decided that offering them for sale to the public would be a good idea, but offering them for sale as works of art would be an even better idea.

“Chair auctions have been successful fundraising events in many communities,” said middle school librarian Laura Shucha. “We are hoping for a wonderful contingent of creative local artists to transform these chairs. We are also looking forward to sharing these chairs with the public, fostering some spirited competition to win each chair via a silent auction.” All funds raised will be put toward the purchase of furnishings for the 7/8 Library.

As of the May 27 deadline, 20 artists have submitted requests to design a one-of-kind chair that represents a piece of DASD history.

Mark your calendar for the on-site and online silent auction events!

• **August 29:** On-site Silent Auction at DeForest Area Middle School Backpack Night
• **August 30 - September 9:** Online Silent Auction
• **September 10:** On-site Silent Auction at Yahara Riverfest

Join the 4th of July Parade band!

The DeForest Area School District’s Band Program is seeking all interested student, alumni, faculty, and community musicians to participate in the 2016 4th of July Parade Marching Band!

Rehearsals will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, Monday, June 27 through Friday, July 1 in the DeForest Area High School band room. The call time for the performance will be 10 am in the high school band room on July 4.

If interested, please sign up by Friday, June 10 at deforestmsband.org/marching

Please contact James Skaleski, this year’s director, at 842-6124 or jskaleski@deforestschools.org, if you have any questions.

Summer office hours for schools

From June 13 to August 12, office hours for DASD schools and the Administrative Center will be 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday thru Thursday.
Farewell to our 2016 retirees

Pictured:
Rose Tobakas
Educational Assistant, 15 years
Mary Jo Palmer
Math Teacher, 31 years
Deb Kookasemkit
Special Education Teacher, 19 years
Karen DeFibo
Art Teacher, 27 years
Judi Walsh
Program Coordinator for College & Workforce Readiness, 34 years

Not pictured:
Karen Vian
Third Grade Teacher, 19 years
LaJeanne Finke
Third Grade Teacher, 17 years
Jon Bryne
Procurement, 14.5 years

5/12 Scholarship program gives scholarships for 13 years

For thirteen years, local businesses have supported a scholarship program to provide 5th grade DASD students an on-going financial incentive to do well in school and pursue post-secondary education. The program began in 2000 with a $1,000 donation from Ideal Crane. Since then several businesses have contributed to the scholarship fund, however, four local ones have consistently provided financial support for several years.

Thank you to DMB Community Bank, Essential Family Vision, Paulson Development, LLC, and Dr. Meredith Bakke for their continued support.

What is unique about this scholarship program is that students begin earning the $1,000 scholarship in 5th grade! Fifth grade students apply and are selected by the Chamber of Commerce Education Committee based on financial need, academic achievement, demonstrating potential, personal involvement and school attendance. Once in the program, students are evaluated each year on the same criteria (except financial need), earning additional funds into their scholarship account. Students meeting the criteria each year are then awarded their $1,000 scholarship during the Senior Awards Night, held each year in May. Since the first scholarship in 2007, $13,000 has been awarded to graduating seniors.

More information about the 5/12 Scholarship Program is available on the DASD website.

Registration, continued

On-site, August 4 & 8

• Stop in anytime on either of these days to have your child’s school picture taken.
• If needed, complete the online registration process with help from DASD staff.
• Pick up items purchased online (activity passes, parking permits, etc.). There are some forms, such as volunteer background checks, athletic physical cards, and high school yearbook information, that need to be submitted in person.
• Visit with food service and bus transportation staff.

More about volunteer background checks

First-time users of the volunteer background check online form are required to create an account, which will allow you to submit the volunteer application.

Criminal background checks need to be repeated every three years that the volunteer remains in active status with the District.

Parents can access student assessment data online

Students throughout the district have taken local and state assessments, or tests, throughout the year. Depending on the grade level, these may have included STAR, PALS, Reading Profiles, WKCE, Explore, Plan, ACT, etc.

Parents/Guardians can view assessment results for their children online. Log onto Family Access and click on the link for “Test Scores” on the left navigation.
Summer is almost here! Students have been working hard all year and have made tremendous growth. DASD staff would like to ensure that students don’t see their progress melt away over summer vacation.

Parents/Guardians of students in 4K through 2nd grade: Sign up for FREE literacy tips that will be sent via text messaging three times a week from Monday, June 6th through Wednesday, August 31st.

Learn fun and easy ways to help your students with their reading and writing at home over the summer. Tips will be sent in your preferred language.

To sign up for this free service:
Text: JOIN to 12014845721
Note: Standard text message rates apply.

Summer literacy resources on DASD website
> www.deforestschools.org
> Families
> Family Resources

Student Spotlight

Williams named 2016 Herb Kohl Foundation Excellence Scholarship recipient and National Merit Finalist

DeForest Area High School senior, Rachel Williams, has recently been selected as a recipient of the 2016 Herb Kohl Foundation award. The $5,000 awards, increased from the previous $3,000 awards, have been made to 100 graduating high school students in Wisconsin.

According to the Herb Kohl Foundational Program website, “The purpose of the scholarship program is to recognize student leadership, citizenship, school and community involvement, and academic achievement.”

The award was presented to Williams at a recognition luncheon held at Sun Prairie High School on Sunday, April 10th. Williams’ guests included; Machell Schwarz (DAHS Principal), Holli Reckin (current Spanish teacher), Sue Jenkins (Williams’ 4th grade teacher at YES) and Jenni Freitag (Williams’ church small group leader).

Williams was also selected as a National Merit Scholarship finalist to earn a $2,500 scholarship. She was one of 1,000 students selected for the award nationally out of more than 15,000 finalists. Winners from each state were judged based on accomplishments, skills, and classroom performance by a committee of college admissions officers and high school counselors. (DeForest Times-Tribune).
District hosts 25th annual Back-to-School Lunches

Students at Yahara Elementary School (pictured above) welcomed grandparents and older adults to lunch, for the 25th annual Back-to-School Lunches, sponsored by each school and Link-ages, a school/community organization recognizing the talents of all age groups.

Over 1,000 adults attended lunch in the district’s elementary schools and middle school throughout April and May.

In addition, several older adults also attended a reception (sponsored by GSA) and afternoon preview performance of the high school’s spring play, “You Can’t Take it With You,” on April 27.

Students build bridges in STEM enrichment activity

This spring a group of fifth grade students at DeForest Area Middle School participated in a STEM-related enrichment activity lead by science teacher Jeff Stern. The project involved building a bridge with toothpicks and skewers.

Students began with a fictitious $1.5 million budget to purchase their materials. They soon realized that the blueprints and supplies were very expensive. A single toothpick cost $10,000; a skewer, $25,000; land, $500,000, and welding supplies (glue) were $850. An audit of their books was done with a $2,000 cost for each mistake. After each bridge was built, it was tested for strength by attaching increasingly heavier weights, until the bridge snapped.

According to Stern, the winning group of students (pictured above) built a bridge that withstood 34 pounds before breaking.

Plenty of interactive activities at STEM Open House

Over 130 people attended the school district’s STEM Open House in March at DeForest Area Middle School.

Students and staff, many who are working with the new Project Lead the Way curriculum at the middle school and high school, were on hand to provide hands-on activities for children and their parents.

In addition to demonstrating the interactive science, technology and math activities, families also had a chance to learn about two camps coming up this summer in the district: a Summer STEM Camp for 7th grade girls and Camp Invention for students in 1st through 6th grade.
Upcoming events in the Madison area

**Bolz Conservatory Exhibit – Light Gaps**
March 19 – July 10
Olbrich Botanical Gardens
[www.olbrich.org/gardens/conservatory_exhibit.cfm](http://www.olbrich.org/gardens/conservatory_exhibit.cfm)

**Free Bird & Nature Guided Walk**
Sundays, 2016
Various Park Locations
[http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/calendar](http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/calendar)

**Guided Garden Strolls**
Sundays, June 5 – September 25
Olbrich Botanical Gardens
[http://www.olbrich.org/education/guidedgardenstrolls.cfm](http://www.olbrich.org/education/guidedgardenstrolls.cfm)

**Movies on the Water**
Tuesdays, June 7 – August 30
The Edgewater
[https://www.theedgewater.com/home/events-calendar/](https://www.theedgewater.com/home/events-calendar/)

**Lakeside Kids**
June 22 – July 27
Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center
[http://www.mononaterrace.com/community/all-programs/category/children_s_programs](http://www.mononaterrace.com/community/all-programs/category/children_s_programs)

**Summertime Fun**
Several themed exhibits and activities throughout the summer beginning June 28
Wisconsin Historical Museum

**Upcoming local community events**

**DASD Budget Hearing & Annual Meeting**

The DASD 2016-17 Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting will be held on **Monday, July 25, 2016** at the DeForest Area Public Library, Community Room, 203 Library Street, DeForest, beginning at 7:00 pm.

The Budget Hearing is a presentation of the upcoming school year budget and provides an opportunity for public comment.

The Annual Meeting allows for an advisory vote on the school district’s proposed tax levy.

Information about the 2016-17 budget and annual meeting will be posted on the DASD Website (Board of Education - District Budget) and News Blog (www.dasdnews.org).
Norski Nibbles
For kids through 12th grade who are in need of a nutritious lunch now that school is out. Served Monday-Friday (except July 1 & 4), 11:45 am-12:15 pm June 8 through August 31 at four locations in DeForest and Windsor.

Questions? call 846-4718 or email office@christlutherandeconscious.org

Thank you to the many organizations and businesses who supported our DAHS graduates with scholarships to further their education. Over $700,000 in scholarships were awarded to the Class of 2016 at the annual Senior Awards Night held on May 18.

Congratulations Class of 2016!
260 graduates

Photo courtesy of DAHSYearbook