

# Board Briefs

## Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week set for May 6-10

Board of Education members approved a resolution to recognize May 6-10 as Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week.

"There are great things happening in our school buildings, and our teachers and support staff are the reasons for that," said Superintendent **Eric Lieske**. "They constantly go above and beyond to put kids first."

Board Secretary **Karen Conover** says she brags about the Davison staff everywhere she goes.

"They are what make us and we really do appreciate them all year round," she said.

## GSRP complements full day kindergarten program

The move to a full day kindergarten program this school year has been a tremendous success.

"We are seeing some amazing things from our kids," **Natalie Miller**, Thomson Elementary Principal, told Board of Education members Monday night. "We know some parents were concerned about the full day ... but it's really, really exciting to see that the kids are achieving huge milestones."

Part of the success is due to the Great Start Readiness Preschool program, which prepares students for kindergarten. Davison currently offers six half-day sessions to 108 students, said Early Learning Coordinator **Susan Vamos**.

Based on winter reading scores, 92 percent of kindergarteners who were in GSRP are at benchmark levels.

"We see GSRP as a great foundation for these kids," Vamos said.

Miller said this year's kindergarten students have reached benchmarks that have never been seen before.

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*The mission of the Davison Community Schools is to develop individuals who demonstrate skills necessary for lifelong success in a changing, global society.*



### DECA students headed for international contest

Nine DECA students have qualified to compete in the International Career Development Conference later this month in California. Board members approved the trip at Monday night's meeting.

The following students will be competing: **Jenna Holt, Kylie Weidenhammer, Madison Alexander, Zac Childs, Dane Gerding, Logan Page, Janie Shipman, Hannah Warner and Dennis Wiggins**.

### Board approves purchase of curriculum, texts

Board members approved the purchase of textbooks and materials for the 2013-14 school year as recommended by the district's Advisory Curriculum Council. The total cost, \$399,048, will purchase supplies for social studies grades 1-8, AP biology, AP economics and AP biology at the high school, and business, English, math and science materials at Davison Alternative Education.

Board Briefs is a monthly newsletter published after Board of Education meetings. For additional information, please contact the Communications Department at 591-0852.



## Leading the Pledge

*Students from the Cardinal's Nest, along with Director Marilyn Strader, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance at Monday night's Board of Education meeting. April is the Month of the Young Child and the Cardinal's Nest is holding a variety of activities, including special guest readers and "lunch with a hero" throughout the month to celebrate.*

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## Kindergarten/

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Last spring, 67 percent of students were at grade level on the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) test and 80 percent on Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA).

This winter, students in the full day program scored 84 percent on the DIBELS and 91 percent on the DRA.

"We've never had that before," Miller said.

Miller said the full day program was developed not to add more to the day but to concentrate on what was already a strong kindergarten curriculum.

"The problem was with a half day schedule, there wasn't enough time to do the curriculum justice," she said.

Now, students get 90 minutes of literacy activities, 60 minutes of writing and 60 minutes of math instruction in addition to science, social studies, health, anti-bullying and Cardinal Code and "play with purpose" social development lessons. Students also have physical education, computers and music classes several times a week.

## Board accepts contributions

The following contributions were accepted gratefully by the Board:

- **Jeremy Keefer**, on behalf of **Whitetails Unlimited**, donated \$1,000 to the Hahn Fishing and Outdoor Club. The money will be used to provide students with a connection to and appreciation and respect for nature.
- Davison parent **Duane Hummel** donated computer equipment to the Technology Department for use as needed throughout the district.
- Gates Elementary Paraprofessional **Gretchen Scofield** donated \$50 to the One School One Book project to use as needed for Gates' students.
- Davison parent **Cindy Chamberlin** donated several pairs of winter gloves to Gates Elementary students for use as needed.
- Davison parent **Don Pietras**, on behalf of **Acme Oil Company/Mobile 1**, was awarded the \$500 2012 Education Alliance Math & Science Grant, which he donated to Thomson Elementary.
- **Dee Simpson**, a Davison resident, donated scrapbook supplies, construction paper, card stock, Campbell's Soup labels and Box Tops for Education. The supplies will be given to students for use and the labels and box tops were given to Siple Elementary for help with fundraising efforts.
- Davison High School Secretary **Sharon Jacobs** and her husband, **Brian**, donated a Sony computer monitor and miscellaneous computer books to the Technology Department for use as needed throughout the district.
- Davison resident **Alice Duchene** donated photographic supplies to the Davison High School Art Department to provide support to the department's photography program.
- Davison resident **Hillary Lynn** donated various office and classroom supplies to the Thomson Elementary teaching staff.