

Comet Community Chronicle

Moving Forward with Promise

November 30, 2018

Dear Families,

At this time of year, we think about all we are thankful for...family, friends, or our health. This is also the season of giving. Here at DDS, our staff are thankful to you - our community, our families, our students, and your partnership. We work to give you our best each and every day. Providing your child(ren) with a safe, nurturing environment and the best education is our highest priority.

Your partnership is very important to us. Here are some ways you can give back...

- Talk with your children about “See something, Say something” as safety is always our number one priority. This Fall we have participated in staff training on tips and strategies to best protect your child. We continue to partner with our local authorities to practice safety drills, including Lock Down drills, to improve our responsiveness.
- Have your child attend school regularly. Making daily attendance a priority will help them do well in the classroom and eventually in a job.
- Get involved. Attending your child’s events, whether that be parent-teacher conferences, a sporting event, a musical or theater performance shows you care. Children aim to please, and they do their best when they know someone is watching them.

As I attend events, performances, and watch your children grow, I continue to be proud. You may have or may not have heard, but I believe in Bringing Back the Pride. Being *Comet Proud* is a mindset ... a belief in achieving something even greater ... an understanding that together we are stronger. It goes with the African proverb - *It Takes a Village*. Together WE can be that village for your child. Therefore, I ask of you again....listen and talk with your child, have them attend school regularly, and get involved. Your partnership is essential and would be the greatest gift you could give to both your child, your child’s teachers, and your community.

As always, if you ever need anything, please reach out to me. I want to get to know every child, family, and community member.

Comet Proud,

Dr. Jill Sorbie
District Administrator
Director of Instruction
jsorbie@ddschoools.org
(262)233-6751

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Delavan-Darien High School has had an amazing November! To begin, we received our state report card showing our growth as a building, meeting expectations! Our goal for this year is to continue to close the achievement gap. Look to the right to see where we've been. Great job DDHS staff and students!



We have had a lot of fun with our students, including senior preparations for graduation. Make sure your student keeps up with their grades to earn credits, and they get their cap & gown ordered at the November 30th Senior Class Meeting.

The DDHS String Choir participated in a workshop at UW-Whitewater. The workshop clinician was the Concertmaster of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Frank Almond. DDHS violinists, seniors Madelyn Andreoni & Eliberto Gomez Rodriguez performed as soloists with the String Choir on Bach's Concerto for Two Violins in D minor.



We also celebrated Veteran's Day featuring guest speeches by our very own veteran, Mr. Mike Bell, and a future service member and current DDHS senior, Mr. Sean Seitz. Our choir also performed on Veteran's Day at a ceremony hosted by State Senator Steve Nass.



We finished off the month with a couple other activities as well. We had the ability to directly honor eight of our colleagues as they were honored as "Teachers of the Quarter" within our building for going above and beyond in a variety of facets during the first quarter of the year. The teachers being honored were Mr. Larson, Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Gali, Mrs. McKay, Mrs. Hehn, Mr. Alter, Ms. Schwind and Mr. Stark. We look



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forward to recognizing more staff for their significant accomplishments and contributions towards growing our students academically.

Finally, we offered our students a Reality Fair at the end of the month, where students selected a career and had to make life decisions on expenditures, including utility bills, daycare and purchases. Students spent time during the fair learning how to allocate their funds responsibly.



Phoenix Middle School is still celebrating our recent State Report Card of "Significantly Exceeding Expectations" for the second year in a row. We were pleased to see our recent score placed us in the 22nd spot for ALL Wisconsin Middle Schools. Student academic growth is our focus and clearly, we are on the right trajectory.



At Phoenix, we believe that academic rigor and the social-emotional well being of each child is important. Therefore in addition to raising test scores, we also provide outlets such as monthly activity nights for all local youth in 6th through 8th grade.

Homeroom fun is just one way. We work hard to create a positive environment!

This month we also trained every teacher to "Stop The Bleed." On November 7th, Local Eagle Scout Candidate Zachery Lodder helped organize training for all staff on how to respond to a significant event

where there was risk of death due to loss of blood. Thanks to his Eagle Scout project we now have three "Stop the bleed" kits in our building with all staff having been trained. Thanks Zachery!

Teachers Kassidy Truckenbrod practicing her tourniquet skills on Ms. Jessica Radloff.



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There were many activities in November at **Turtle Creek Elementary School** that involved students, teachers, parents, and the community. First Quarter ended at the beginning of the month and we celebrated with our PBIS Assembly. We talk about the Comet Code and the students get to participate in fun activities. During this assembly, we also recognize our Courageously Kind Kids with a certificate and t-shirt. The students don't know ahead of time who is chosen for this and we invite the parents to show up as a surprise. One of our themes this year is Perseverance and Grit and Mrs. Berg wrote a song about this and the Honor Choir



performed it at the assembly.

The song was amazing! Another part of our PBIS program is our Comet Cash Raffle. Students earn Comet Cash for “getting caught” following the Comet Code. The Comet Cash is entered into a drawing that is held the 2nd and last Friday of every month. The winners get to come to Mr. Fountain’s office to pick a prize and then tell him which part of the Comet Code they followed.



Our 2nd grade went on a field trip to UW-Whitewater to watch a performance of Nugget and Fang at the Young Auditorium. The students were in awe about how big the Young Auditorium was and couldn't stop talking about how great the performance was. The teachers also enjoyed the performance and were proud of the students' excellent behavior.

TC also held its 1:1 Parent-Teacher Conferences. Parent turnout was excellent which shows that our parents really care about and support their child's education. We tried something new this year by holding these “cafeteria style.” Due to large class sizes and the fact that the students see multiple teachers, some of the lines got a bit long. We want to thank you for your patience and Mr. Fountain will revisit this process to make it more efficient next year.

The Veteran's Day Assembly was brought back to Turtle Creek this year. About 20 Veterans attended and watched a presentation which included students singing patriotic songs and reading passages which they wrote themselves. Many of the Veteran's commented on what a wonderful assembly it was!



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On the day before Thanksgiving break, the Comets Community in Action visited the 1st grade lunch and provided some snacks. Our students were so excited to receive this tasty treat. Many classes also had fun activities planned and some worked on Thanksgiving projects to take home. To find out what is happening at Turtle Creek in December click on the following link: [Turtle Creek December Newsletter](#)

With the Holiday season upon us, it is a great time to reflect on what we are thankful for. As the **Wileman** students prepared for the 5K Thanksgiving feast that was held on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving break, a few students shared what they are thankful for: “my mom and dad, my dog, my house, my friends and my teacher.” The students had a great time preparing their food and eating as one 5K family at the end of the day!



I would like to also say a big “Thank You” to the families that attended our “Fall Into Reading” Literacy Night. Although we did not get the turnout we were hoping for, we received positive feedback from the families that did attend. We also received other suggestions that will help us in planning our next family night to try to increase the attendance.



Individual conferences should be wrapped up by now since our timeline was Thanksgiving break. If you have not scheduled your 1:1 conference with the teacher, please reach out to get that set up. We appreciate the support from our families and know that student success is impacted by a great home to school connection!

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Upcoming dates for Wileman:

12/13: 5K ONLY Winter Concert @ DDHS: 6:00-7:00

12/19: 4K Outreach event: 1:30-3:00 in the gym (No regularly scheduled 4K classes)

12/19: Community Caroling Event @ WI: Meet @ 5:00 in the Gym. Caroling to start at 5:45 in the neighborhood across from Wileman

12/24-1/1: No School-Winter Break!