



COMET COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

Moving Forward with Promise

Dear Comet Families,

Please welcome Ms. Ashley Duchemin to the Comet Family. Ms. Duchemin is the District Marketing and Communications Coordinator. She started on February 1st and you can see she has been busy. She has transformed this newsletter, strives to make improvements on our website, and posts daily to our Facebook page. If you have any suggestions to improve communications, please email her at aduchemin@ddschools.org.



The District is seeking feedback from families on our strengths, areas for improvement, and future strategic planning ideas. We ask you to complete this [short survey](#) allowing us to learn from you. Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete it before March 7th when the survey will be closed.

Registration for 4-year old kindergarten is open. [Click here for a flyer for 4K.](#) We are proud of the gains that our 4K program shows for students around social-emotional learning and the foundational skills needed for kindergarten. For more information or a tour, please reach out to principal Ms. Belinda McCarthy at (262)233-6300.

DDSD summer programs are right around the corner! This year's offerings will be out real soon. Programs go from Monday, June 13th - Thursday, July 28th. Reserve your spot for DDSD summer programs beginning on March 15th. Be sure not to miss out on this summer's fun.

State assessments are upon us. ACT (11th graders) is on March 8th. ACT Aspire (9th-10th graders) is on April 12th. Forward assessments (grades 3rd -8th and 10th graders) window starts on March 28th through April 29th. These assessments are important for your child and the District. For your child, they serve as one snapshot of their academic abilities as it relates to the State Standards. For the District, it allows us to measure our instruction, curriculum, interventions related to the State Standards. Families also play an important role in preparing their child by encouraging them to complete their work, read at home with a family member, attend school, and overall, participate with their child in the learning process. Each of these pieces are intertwined as we are stronger when we work together.

Finally, closing school due to weather is not taken lightly and there is no magic formula. The decision is based on whether students and staff make it to and from school safely. In order to make a decision, the District works with Dousman, other local Districts, and listens to timely responses from National Weather Services out of Milwaukee. The NWS provides frequent updates as well as early morning webinars to share the conditions with schools in the broader area.

Comet Proud,
Jill Sorbie, EdD
District Administrator / Director of Instruction

District Calendar Events:

March 9
End of Trimester for
Elem/PX

March 21 - March 25
Spring Break

We appreciate your feedback by participating in the **2021-2022 Delavan-Darien School District ESSER III PLAN survey.** [Click here](#) to complete this short survey.



A Message from Delavan-Darien High School



DDHS Learning Lab is for Homework Support

DDHS IS PROUD TO SHARE THAT IT IS CONTINUING TO HOST OUR LEARNING LAB ON TUESDAY'S AND THURSDAY'S, FROM 3-4:30 PM IN QUAD 151 AT DELAVAN-DARIEN HIGH SCHOOL.

Students are provided a snack and transportation home (if needed), if they attend the Learning Lab and get their homework completed. Staff are available in the Lab to assist and support students accomplishing the completion of their classwork. We encourage students and parents to have conversations about committing to graduate through passing their courses by completing their coursework.



Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella

The DDHS thespians have been working hard to put together Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella musical production. They will be performing the musical according to the following schedule:

- Friday, March 4 at 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 5 at 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 6 at 2:00 p

Tickets cost \$5 for each student or senior citizen, and \$7 for all other adults and are available for sale in the Athletic Director's Office at DDHS from 8 AM - 3 PM, Monday through Friday, until March 4, 2022.



ACT Assessment

Parents/Guardians of DDHS juniors, please be advised that the statewide ACT Assessment date is Tuesday, March 8.

Only grade 11 students will be attending school in-person that day, and they may leave upon completion of the ACT test that afternoon (approx. 1 PM).

All other students (freshmen, sophomores, and seniors) will have virtual lessons to complete at home that day! Please help hold your child accountable for completing the virtual work that day.



The Wisconsin Forward assessments

is a social studies exam given to all high school sophomores in the state. DDHS will be hosting these exams on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 29 & 30. All students will be required to be present in the building as we will be hosting block day schedules on those dates (March 29 - odd periods / March 30 - even periods). The WI Forward assessment will be given only to sophomores during their social studies class.

Parents must be real partners in education with their children's teachers, from cradle to career.

-Arne Duncan, Ninth US Secretary of Education

DDHS Choir Concert

Delavan-Darien High School is excited to invite the community into our auditorium on **MONDAY, MARCH 14, FOR OUR 7 PM SPRING CHOIR CONCERT.** Students, under the direction of our choir director, Mr. Adam Drefs, will be performing songs for all to enjoy.

A Message from Phoenix Middle School

Musical Presentation

PHOENIX MIDDLE SCHOOL PRESENTED AN INCREDIBLE MUSICAL *MATILDA* AT THE END OF JANUARY.

Our students were excited to participate and showcase their talents for our community. A special thank you to Ms. Ropers-Rosendahl and Ms. Timmerman who serve as directors for the musical.



Thank you to our Student Council committee and our Parent Engagement group for planning activities for our students and our families.

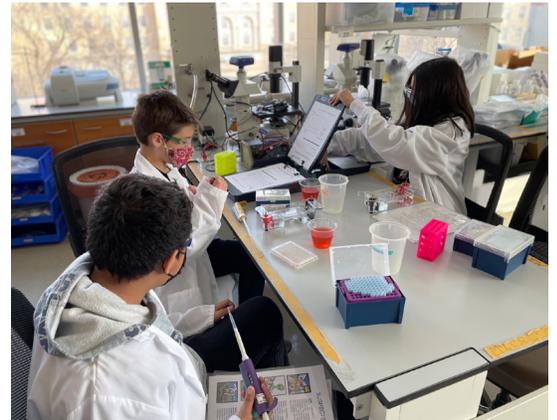


Activity Night

Our Student Council held our first Activity Night since COVID for our 7th and 8th grade students. Students were able to enjoy an evening with friends playing basketball, volleyball, dancing, and enjoying each other's company.

MAP Testing

All students in the building have completed their winter MAP testing. Students take the MAP test in reading and math. It is exciting to see how much growth our students have made from the fall assessment. Our staff were busy on our teacher inservice day analyzing this data to determine what other opportunities would be beneficial for our students. This includes providing intervention and enrichment opportunities for our students based on what they need.



Science Immersion Day

FOUR STUDENTS WERE SELECTED IN OUR 5TH AND 6TH GRADE CLASSES TO TRAVEL TO UW-MADISON TO PARTICIPATE IN SCIENCE IMMERSION DAY.

They started with a forensic science experiment. Students analyzed "alien blood" found at a crime scene. The second session involved TriboElectric NanoGenerators (TENG). Students created their own hand held generators using static electricity. Finally, students worked with DNA. We were able to work with more than 7 scientists while traveling to multiple areas on the UW-Madison campus.

Battle of the Books

Phoenix Middle School just finished up our Battle of the Books competition. 70 students in grades 5-8 participated. The students signed up in teams of four or less. They would then read from a list of 20 books selected by the State of Wisconsin Battle of the Books committee. In February, they took a practice quiz. The team with the highest score competed at the state level by taking a test that put them in competition with teams across the state. There are two divisions (one for 5/6th grade and one for 7/8th grade). The winners for our 5/6th grade division are; Faith Iverson, Emma Meinen, Jerzi DeWitt, and Ashlynn Duncan. The winners for our 7/8th grade division are; Vivienne Frenz, Brielle Hensel, and Abigail Kiem. Congratulations!

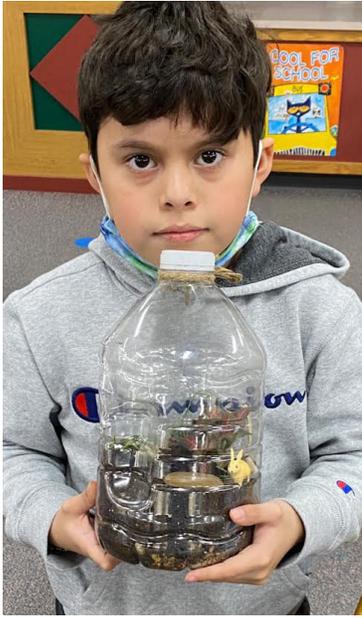


Fundraiser Reward

Phoenix Middle School students participated in a school-wide fundraiser in November. Students who were able to sell 13 or more orders earned a reward trip to the Kalahari. This trip is scheduled during the school day on Friday, March 4th. There are 148 students who earned this reward. Congratulations to our students for their hard work for this fundraiser!



A Message from Darien Elementary



4-H Activities

DEBBIE HARRIS FROM UW-EXTENSION WALWORTH COUNTY LED SOME OF OUR 2ND AND 3RD GRADE CCLC STUDENTS IN 4-H ACTIVITIES.

The students made thaumatropes, a card with different pictures on opposite sides which appear combined if twirled quickly. They learned about how insects communicate with noise and made a device that sounds like a bumblebee when swung around. During a lesson on electrical circuits, the students built a robot that drew on paper. The students dissected owl pellets and determined what the barn owl ate. This last week, the students built a terrarium. The terrariums are closed, meaning that the water they put in it will stay in it because the water cycle will work inside. If you are interested in joining a 4-H Club, [click here](#).

The PBIS team organized a Penny War recently with the funds helping to support the PBIS rewards for students. Each staff member displayed a container in the front lobby to collect money. Students brought in coins or cash to place in the containers of their choice. The pennies and dollars created positive amounts for staff whereas the silver coins deducted from the positive balance. The staff with the highest positive totals were Mr. Malnar, Mrs. Pickel and Mrs. Goff. The staff with the highest negative amount was Ms. Skiba. Mr. Malnar, Ms. Skiba and Mrs. Goff willingly accepted a pie in the face from a student. Overall, the event raised a little over \$700 for PBIS rewards.



Our students have been interested in the Winter Olympic Games this year. A team of staff organized activities around the olympics, including activities in gym class along with an afternoon of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) activities. Students learned a little history of popular winger games like curling, figure skating, bobsledding and ski jumping. Students worked with others across the building to design and compete in a curling contest using different weights as stones, planned and designed a platform that could suspend and spin a figure or speed skater, designed a bobsled that competed in a bobsled challenge, and researched, designed and created skiers. Students worked on cooperation, teamwork, winning and losing as well. Lots of fun was had by all!



In Second Step, third grade students have been learning about emotions. We've talked about why we have emotions, how to express emotions, and how to recognize emotions in others. Some third grade students taught their peers how to ask for help when we are dealing with stronger emotions.

WIABE (Wisconsin Association of Bilingual Educators) has invited our 4th grade dual students to participate in the WIABE statewide writing contest. Winners will be recognized at a special luncheon in April at the WIABE Annual Conference at Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Students have been working hard on their writing for this contest.



Makerspace Class

OUR STUDENTS SPENT TIME IN MAKERSPACE CLASS adding attachments to the Dash coding robots with Mrs. Chelminiak. They program the devices to move and launch items aiming for the targets. Pictured are the Launcher and Gripper. The Xylophone attachment is not pictured.

A Message from Turtle Creek Elementary



Science and Reading

OUR 1ST GRADE DUAL LANGUAGE YOUNG SCIENTISTS WERE ABLE TO MIX SCIENCE AND READING TOGETHER for an adventurous learning experience. They are learning All About Light in their Science unit and used flashlights as a new way to read their favorite books.

The students also did a variety of experiments to learn more about light.

Proud Poets

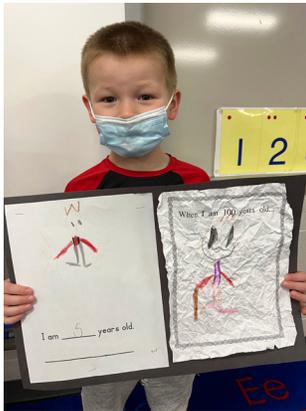
Our First Grade students were using their word knowledge to create their own special poems during their Elements of Poetry unit. They were able to work collaboratively to develop the lines for their poem, use rhyming words, and read their class creations to others. These students were very proud of their poems!

2nd Grade Dual Language Reader's Theater

The 2nd Grade Dual Language students worked together to perform a play with the story "La Amiga Hormiga" (The Ant Friend) in their Language Arts classes. The students were all engaged in the reading of the play, acting as different characters, and performing the story in class. Our students are able to extend their level of learning when they get actively involved in stories and engage in the lessons. What a fun way to encourage reading!



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100 Days of School

It is hard to believe that we celebrated our 100th Day of School! On February 9th, our students found 100 different ways to celebrate 100 days! There is so much to be proud of with the teaching and learning that has happened so far this year! Our 4 year old and 5 year old students were counting to 100 in English and Spanish! All of our students were playing a variety of games involving 100 items, finding patterns with 100, dressing in apparel that showed 100, wearing crowns of 100, and many other exciting activities to celebrate a special day!



Internet Safety

OUR YOUNG LEARNERS ARE BEING TAUGHT ABOUT INTERNET SAFETY DURING THEIR COMPUTER TIME.

Thanks to Mrs. Mohr for helping them understand how to use the internet as a learning tool. Please reinforce this important message at home with your children.

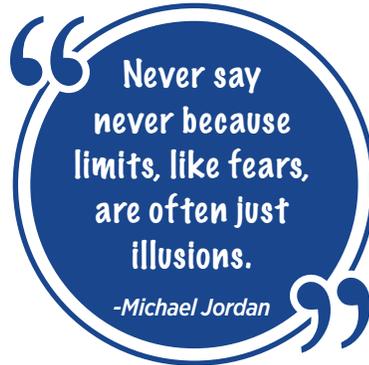




A Message from Phoenix & Delavan-Darien High School Athletics, Clubs & Activities

High School Spring Sports

High School Spring sports are just around the corner, with Track (co-ed) starting March 7th, Softball starting March 14th, along with Baseball pitchers and catchers. Girls Soccer will start official practices on March 21st, Boys Tennis will start on March 28th and Golf starts on April 4th.



DYK- Activities

Did you know that the High School has a Military Awareness Club (M.A.C.)? Students participate in military educational programs and learn rank systems. They also have an ASVAB tutoring program. The M.A.C. is led by one of DDHS own veterans, Ms. Monroe.



Middle School Sports

MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL is in full swing with games scheduled up to spring break. **MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK** (co-ed) will start March 28th after spring break.



Wrestlers Headed to State Meet

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHRIS KARBASH, OWEN CHELMINIAK AND COLE HANSON on qualifying for the WIAA Division 2 State Wrestling meet. Chris and Owen placed second and Cole won the Individual Sectional at Richland Center on February 19th. Photo credit to Rocky Feeny.

