



David Douglas School NEWS

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SUMMER 2009

Two great ways for parents to stay involved and in touch

During the just concluded school year, the David Douglas School District introduced two new ways for parents to keep up with what's happening in their student's school and classroom. Look for use of these new tools to increase next year.

Parent Assistant provides middle and high school parents with on-line access to their student's current grades, homework assignments and progress. Parents are provided a password to the system, allowing them to track their student's progress daily.

The District also installed a new automated dialing system called *SchoolMessenger* that allows recorded messages to be sent in a matter of minutes to every family in the District. For instance, when snow closed schools during the week before last Winter Break, the District was able to send telephone messages to the families of more than 10,000 students within about 30 minutes.

As the year progressed, this phone message system was increasingly used by individual schools to send recorded messages home about upcoming events. Parents should expect more frequent phone messages next year keeping them up on school activities and events.



Recently graduated DDHS senior Victor Dang, center, played first trumpet in the school's award-winning symphony orchestra using an instrument purchased for the District by the David Douglas Educational Foundation.

Student Success Tuned to Strong Music Program

David Douglas High School senior Victor Dang began playing trumpet as a 5th grader at Mill Park Elementary School. He fully embraced the instrument while at Floyd Light Middle School. Today, after four years with the DDHS marching band and the symphony orchestra, Dang is the Mt. Hood District trumpet champion, one of the top trumpet players in the state, and a member of Oregon's fifth place high school symphony orchestra.

But playing the trumpet well isn't the most important thing Dang takes from his music experiences in the David Douglas School District.

"Being part of band has helped me to develop leadership skills," said Dang, who was first chair trumpet in the orchestra as a junior and senior. "I've gained a lot of confidence in myself over the last two years."

Dang, who graduated from DDHS on June 3, was

just one of more than 2,500 students in grades 5-12 who took advantage of the District's robust music program, whether it be in band, orchestra or choir. Music is an important part of the overall curriculum at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

Such exposure from an early age leads to success. This year, all four major music performance groups from David Douglas High School qualified for their respective Oregon statewide competitions. The Symphonic Strings placed 11th in State; the Concert Choir placed 9th in State; the Wind Ensemble placed 6th in State; and the Symphony Orchestra placed 5th in State.

Beyond having a successful music program accessible to all students, research clearly shows that an education rich in music and the arts helps students develop strong academic skills and productivity that leads to success later in school and work.

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Learn more about the David Douglas School District by visiting our website:
www.ddouglas.k12.or.us

TAG Students Need More Challenge? Problem Solved

Four David Douglas School District 5th graders represented the state of Oregon this spring at an international competition for young problem solvers. The four students, from three different elementary schools, are in the District's Talented and Gifted (TAG) program.

They came together under the guidance of TAG teacher Lani Dalzell to form a Future Problem Solvers team that won the Northwest regional competition



From left to right, David Douglas' Future Problem Solvers Jacob Lyver, Kenna David, TAG teacher Lani Dalzell, Jaelyn Chester and Maggie Chan.

earlier in the spring. That earned the team a trip to East Lansing, Michigan for the annual Future Problem Solving Program International Competition.

Future Problem Solving is a competition in which teams are presented a fictional scenario, usually set 30 to 40 years in the future, and must use a six-step problem solving model to identify challenges and ultimately produce potential solutions, all in two hours.

The topic at this year's international competition was Pandemic, and the David Douglas team placed 29th out of 56 teams in the junior division.

But beyond the actual competition, the event gave the students a unique opportunity to get to know students from around the world, swapping hats, pins, t-shirts and flags. It all culminated with a final night variety show, followed by a dance/social.

Team members also were able to tour the Henry Ford Museum and spend some time in the Michigan State University observatory.

"All of the members of the team stated that this was a life changing experience for them," Dalzell said after returning to Oregon. "And they are all enthusiastic about continuing Future Problem Solvers at the middle school level."

The David Douglas team members included Maggie Chan of Menlo Park Elementary, who was the Oregon flag bearer during opening ceremonies, and Kenna David, also from Menlo Park, who "kept the team focused during the competition," Dalzell said.

Jacob Lyver, of Gilbert Park, had a unique position on the team. He is a second-generation participant in Future Problem Solving, as both his parents competed when they were David Douglas TAG students in the 1980s.

The final team member was Jaelyn Chester of Cherry Park Elementary. Jaelyn probably overcame the most obstacles to get to the competition, as he is one of about 480 students in the District considered to be homeless. When his mom lost her apartment early in the school year, Jaelyn moved in with his aunt in Southeast Portland so that he could continue to attend Cherry Park through this school year. Every morning, he put himself on a Tri-Met bus so he could continue attending school with his friends and participate in the District's TAG services.

The students raised funds to help pay for their trip, and an account held by the David Douglas Educational Foundation set aside for Future Problem Solvers further helped defray costs.

While these four students had a unique experience, the District offers a broad range of enrichment opportunities for nearly 860 students identified as TAG in grades K-12. Oregon law defines TAG students as those who score 97 percent or above on specified tests, and the law requires that they receive additional services to meet their needs.

In David Douglas, these additional services include differentiated instruction in the classroom, pull-out services in grades 2-5 at the TAG Center, where Dalzell teaches, pull-out services at each middle school, and Advanced Placement courses at the high school. High school TAG students also have access to extended options, one-on-one mentoring and college planning.

Free Meals Offered This Summer

Two David Douglas elementary schools are offering free meals to kids ages 18 and younger for about a three week period this summer. The meals are open to any child who comes to one of the locations during meal hours.

Breakfast and lunch will be served from Monday, July 6 through Friday, July 24, at Ventura Park Elementary, 145 SE 117th Ave., and at Earl Boyles Elementary, 10822 SE Bush.

Breakfast will be served from 8:45-9:15 a.m., while lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

No registration is necessary. Any child 18 and under will be served meals; they do not need to be David Douglas students.

Help Us Celebrate 50 Years as a District

The David Douglas School District will celebrate its 50th Anniversary as a District next year. A committee has begun planning for ways to recognize the anniversary throughout next school year. A major celebration event will be held next spring in cooperation with the David Douglas Educational Foundation and the David Douglas Historical Society.

One idea being explored is a way to include and/or recognize particularly notable David Douglas alumni. Some obvious possibilities come to mind, such as U.S. Senator Jeff Merkely, actor Sam Elliot, actress Lindsay Wagner, former Major League Baseball player John Jaha, former NFL player Pete Pierson, the founding members of The Kingsmen, Olympic gold medalist swimmer the late Kim Peyton, and Academy Award winning art director Dennis Gassner.

Of course this list is incomplete. We would love to hear suggestions of notable alumni from you. These don't have to be "celebrities." If you are aware of David Douglas alumni with notable achievements or careers, please send an email to david_douglas@ddouglas.k12.or.us

Board Adopts Scaled Back Budget

The David Douglas School Board unanimously adopted a 2009-10 budget on June 11 following a public hearing. The budget includes a general fund of about \$102.3 million, a nearly \$3 million decline from last year.

As a result, the adopted budget contains several cost reductions. However, District reserves were significantly reduced in order to prevent layoffs or the elimination of programs for students.

Among the cost-cutting measures: The salaries of District administrators and supervisors will be frozen at last year's levels; the District will not purchase new science textbooks next year as scheduled; the purchase of supplemental textbooks will be deferred; some Teacher on Special Assignment positions were eliminated and those individuals were reassigned to

classroom positions open through normal attrition; professional development efforts will be adjusted to keep teachers in classrooms, reducing the need for substitutes; materials and supply budgets will be cut; and out-of-district travel for staff will be eliminated or reduced.

To preserve programs and positions, District reserves will be cut from approximately 15 percent of general funds to about 5 percent, or to just over \$5 million.

The budget was based on the assumption that the State will fund K-12 schools at \$5.9 billion for 2009-11.

You can see the entire budget document, including the Budget Message from Superintendent Barbara Rommel, at the District's website – www.ddouglas.k12.or.us

School Board Elections

District voters this spring added a new member to the David Douglas School Board, while returning three Board veterans to their respective positions.



Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta

Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta became the newest Board member when she took office on July 1. Voters elected her to Position 1 during the May 19 election. The position had previously been held by Bruce Burton, who retired earlier this year.

Meanwhile, Donn Gardner, Dawn Barberis and Annette Mattson were all re-elected to new four-year terms. Gardner, Position 2, has served on the Board since 1993; Barberis, Position 3, has served since 1998; and Matt-



Donn Gardner



Annette Mattson

son, Position 6, has served on the Board since 1995.

Other current Board members who were not up for re-election this year are: Mike Centoni, Position 4, since 1987; Mike Price, Position 5, since 2007; and Frieda Christopher, Position 7, since 1991.

School Board members are volunteers who generally meet twice each month to set School District policy. They also serve on the District's Budget Committee, additional subcommittees and in a variety of other school and community roles that support the mission of the District and the education of its students.



Dawn Barberis

David Douglas Elementary Principals Honored

May was a big month for a couple of David Douglas elementary school principals.

Barbara Chester, principal of Cherry Park Elementary was recently elected president-elect of the 15-member board of directors of the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). Chester will begin as president-elect on July 1, and will assume the office of president one year later.

"I am passionate in my commitment to serve children and to work to further strengthen our association to support principals in every corner of our country," Chester said. "Collectively, we stand poised on the edge of the most exciting and

unique times in education.

I am committed to using our voice on Capitol Hill to create powerful, common-sense changes to policies that lie ahead."

Chester has been a member of NAESP since 1985 and is also active in the Oregon Elementary School Principals Association, serving



Cherry Park Principal Barbara Chester.

as president in 2001-2002, regional president in 1996, and regional representative from 1992 to 1995.

Chester was named NW Regional National Distinguished Principal in 2005 and received the David Douglas School District Apple Award in 2005. She was honored with the Mayor's Award for Youth Service, City of Portland (2004-2005). She has worked as a principal in the David Douglas School District since 1995.



North Powellhurst Principal Kate Barker.

Meanwhile, North Powellhurst Principal Kate Barker was honored by the Mt. Hood Reading Council with its annual Celebrate Literacy Award. The award recognizes significant literacy contributions at the state or local level.

Barker, a strong advocate for early literacy, was named to head North Powellhurst School last year after it was reopened to serve as a nine-classroom kindergarten center. The move was required to free classroom space in the District's elementary schools, which are all at or above capacity. This year North Powellhurst will be expanded to 11 kindergarten classrooms.

Barker began working in David Douglas in 1991, teaching elementary students at Cherry Park until 1997, when she became the District Reading Specialist. She served in that role until becoming Principal at Mill Park Elementary in 2004.

David Douglas School District
1500 SE 130th Avenue / Portland, OR 97233-1719

School Board:

Dawn Barberis, *Chair*
Donn Gardner, *Vice Chair*
Mike Centoni
Frieda Christopher
Annette Mattson
Mike Price
Cheryl A. Scarcelli Ancheta

Superintendent:

Barbara K. Rommel

David Douglas School News is published three times yearly and mailed to every resident and business in the School District. David Douglas schools are:

David Douglas High School	Gilbert Park Elementary School
Fir Ridge Campus	Lincoln Park Elementary School
Alice Ott Middle School	Menlo Park Elementary School
Floyd Light Middle School	Mill Park Elementary School
Ron Russell Middle School	North Powellhurst School
Cherry Park Elementary School	Ventura Park Elementary School
Earl Boyles Elementary School	West Powellhurst Elementary School
Gilbert Heights Elementary School	

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES:

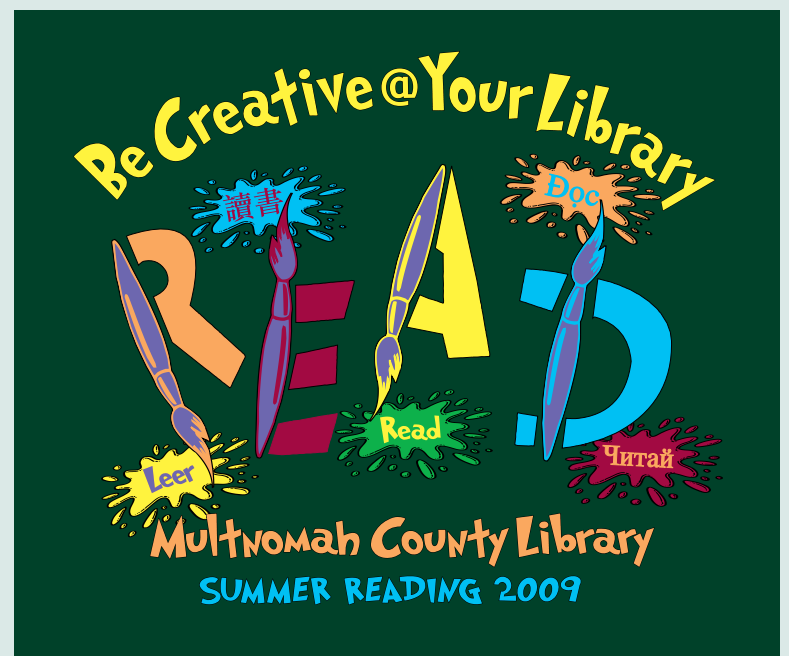
*July 16, 2009 / August 20, 2009 / September 3, 2009 / September 17, 2009 / October 1, 2009
October 15, 2009 / November 5, 2009 / November 19, 2009*

Have fun reading this summer

Be creative at the public library this summer! Beginning June 12, kids of all ages (babies to teens) began signing up for Multnomah County Library's Summer Reading game. It's not too late to participate. Participants may read on their own, be read to by someone else, or listen to books on tape or CD.

Sign up and learn how to play at your neighborhood library, or get more information online at www.multcolib.org/summer (Information online is in English and Spanish). Players keep track of their reading to earn T-shirts and other prizes; kids who finish the game will be entered into the Grand Prize drawing for a trip for four to Disneyland!

The three-month Summer Reading program includes a wide array of fun, free events for children, teens and families. Neighborhood libraries, including the Midland Library in the David Douglas School District, will offer stories, music, puppet shows, crafts, magic and many other activities all summer long.



Student Success Tuned to Strong Music Program

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The David Douglas music program enjoys strong support from the District, but also from the non-profit David Douglas Educational Foundation. Last year, the Foundation raised \$15,000 to purchase a variety of instruments for students to use. One of those new instruments was the trumpet that Victor Dang was able to use throughout his senior year.

"It's a really good trumpet," Dang said. "It's the same trumpet that all

the professionals in Portland use. It's helped me grow as a musician. I grew out of my old trumpet a long time ago. I plateaued on it, and I couldn't afford a new one. This trumpet allowed me to grow."

Dang will attend Oregon State University in the fall and plans to play in the university's band. His trumpet will remain at David Douglas High School to help the next budding musician grow.