

school NEWS

News and information from Unified School District #232.



Chasing Rainbows Award

Dolly Parton gives national award to MTMS teacher
PAGE 11



Friday Night Under the Lights

Get your high school football schedule
PAGE 6

Board of Education Annual Review

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2010-11 School Year Calendar

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THANK YOU FOR OUR SCHOOLS

On behalf of the Board of Education, staff and students, thank you for our new and expanded facilities. Your support is appreciated and valued. We have wonderful, safe schools in which to educate the future of our community because of your generosity.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Two of three constructions projects are complete, while a third remains underway. We are proud to share all projects are under budget with a total savings of about \$9 million.

Voters approved a \$75 million school bond issue in November 2008 for three major projects. However, the Board of Education delayed a portion of projects because of sagging economic conditions. The district's current bond issue is now on hold at \$52 million. Board members expressed concern for taxpayers and cited the need to closely monitor the district's property tax impact.

WHAT'S NEW

The school year begins with the opening of the district's seventh elementary school, Belmont Elementary, located at 5805 Belmont in Shawnee.



Belmont Elementary, 5805 Belmont, Shawnee

The school serves children in Kindergarten through grade five and is also home to the district's special education early childhood program.

Another major project was at Mill Valley High School in Shawnee. The facility was expanded to accommodate a capacity of 1,450 students. This was the school's second expansion since opening in the year 2000.

Work is currently underway on Phase I expansion of De Soto High School in the city of De Soto. When construction is complete, the school will have eight new classrooms, a new corridor, and a new secure main entrance.

See **PAGE 2** for more updates and pictures.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE >>> WHAT'S NEW

COMPLETE - OUR 7TH ELEMENTARY BELMONT ELEMENTARY, 5805 BELMONT, SHAWNEE

- 28 classrooms
- Activity centers
- Media Center (library)
- Gymnasium
- Cafeteria/Commons area
- Demountable partitions between classrooms for flexibility
- Waterless urinals
- Fluid applied air and insulation barrier on exterior walls
- Energy efficient T-8 and T-5 lighting
- White roof surface
- Natural daylight for classroom environment
- Enhanced storm water management including rain gardens and metered release detention basins

GREEN FEATURES

- Displacement air ventilation system
- Energy efficient modulating chillers



COMPLETE - EXPANSION OF MILL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL PURPOSE: INCREASE STUDENT CAPACITY FROM 1,000 TO 1,450

- 38 classrooms
- Expanded student services area
- Expanded special education area for students
- Safety & Security: modified main entrance; expanded office area
- Expanded cafeteria/commons
- Expanded gym capacity
- Auxiliary gym and weight room
- Energy efficient modulating chillers
- Energy efficient fin tube heating boiler system
- Waterless urinals
- Fluid applied air barrier on exterior walls
- Energy efficient T-8 and T-5 lighting
- White roof surface
- Natural daylight for classroom environment
- Enhanced storm water management

GREEN FEATURES

- Displacement air ventilation system

IN PROGRESS - THE DHS EXPANSION - PHASE ONE

The Board of Education worked with HTK Architects (Horst, Terrill, & Karst) to develop a plan to expand De Soto High School in phases. The district is in the middle of phase one to address the more critical and immediate space needs.

Construction is underway to build eight (8) new classrooms and renovate existing space, which is part of the original bond issue plan. The project should be completed in 2011 at a cost of less than \$3 million.

WHAT'S IN THE INITIAL DHS EXPANSION?

The project consists of two additions and minor interior renovations.
Additions: 15,000 square feet
Renovations: 4,500 square feet
Total Square Feet = 19,500

ADDITIONS

The Fine Arts addition will consist of five (5) classrooms with associated spaces for the addition.

- 2 Art Classrooms
- 1 Computer Lab
- 1 Speech Classroom
- 1 Journalism/Digital Media Classroom

Other items:

- 2 Restrooms
- Storage for the Band/Music Program
- Expand the existing Drama Classroom
- Expand the Stage Workroom
- The addition will have an attached Mechanical/ Electrical addition to provide infrastructure for the Phase I addition and future infrastructure for Phase II expansion.

The Flex Classroom/Corridor Link Addition will consist of three (3) flex classrooms adjacent to the

existing Commons Area with a new corridor link for student foot traffic. The addition will have an attached Mechanical/ Electrical addition to provide infrastructure for the Phase I project and future infrastructure for Phase II expansion.

RENOVATIONS

- The Secure Entry renovation will consist of inserting a new door from the existing south main entrance vestibule to the main administration area. This will allow the entrance to be locked down during school hours forcing all visitors into the administrative office.
- The Project Lead the Way renovation will update the old art classroom to accommodate the pre-engineering program. The existing art class will be relocated to the new Fine Arts addition.



BOARD OF EDUCATION ANNUAL REVIEW ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2009-2010

Superintendent Ron Wimmer presented to the Board of Education on July 12, 2010, some of the significant accomplishments achieved during the 2009-10 school year. While the listing here cannot identify all such accomplishments, even lesser items of significance, make a huge difference in the lives of teachers, support staff, parents, and most importantly the students. Wimmer encouraged others to reflect on the past year with pride and a sense of progress. Wimmer acknowledged there remain many opportunities for improvement in the school district at all levels, including those given credit for the successes identified below.

"The mark of a quality school district can be found in identification of those opportunities for improvement not yet achieved, a commitment to continuous improvement, and willingness for self evaluation," said Superintendent Wimmer.

MOST SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Improvement in organizational climate throughout the district
- Handling of difficult personnel issues
- School Board member to member relations and interactions
- Building positive relationships with staff
- Interactions with students

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM MAY 2009 THROUGH JUNE 2010

- Addressed concerns of Early Childhood Education program

- retaining current model
- Implemented Continuous Improvement Process for Board and District
- Implemented Request for Proposals plan for legal services
- Conducted Districtwide H1N1 Immunization Project
- Approved expansion of Advanced Placement Courses, College Now Courses, and Weighting of Grades
- Implemented online payment program for school fees and meal program
- Placed district Check Journal and Board meeting agendas on district Web site
- Named new elementary School: Belmont Bulldogs with Purple and Gold for school colors
- Approved issuance of \$27 million in new bonds for school construction
- Developed a new plan for elementary band instrument rentals
- Implemented a new district accounting program for 2010
- Initiated an enhanced Academic Expectation requirement for participation in student activities
- Approved phase one expansion at De Soto High School
- Updated the Data Center Hardware
- Entered into agreement for employee wellness program with local medical center
- Engaged construction management supervision process
- Secured State and Board Approved funding to support opening of new facilities

- Relocation of Early Childhood Education Program from Countryside to Belmont for 2010
- Developed Action Plan to reduce nearly \$2 million in current year expenditures
- Accomplished financial goals with \$1.8 million in reductions for 2010-11 school year
- Reduced District Administrative Expenditures by \$750,000
- Convened district focus groups to provide suggestions to improve district in eyes of others
- Received successful audit of district financial operations for 2009-10
- Implemented a new Board of Education change order process involving monthly review meetings
- Conducted a successful

- superintendent-elect search process
- Approved a major renovation of Mill Valley Football Field
- Will open two new facilities for the 2010-11 school year (Belmont and Mill Valley High School Addition)
- Construction continuing on new facilities for De Soto High School
- Change in Credit Card distribution policy and use to better monitor and control expenses
- Change in staff travel policy to reduce costs
- Improve Gifts and Gratuities policy with revisions
- Mill levy reduction
- Administrative staff trained in CPR and Heartsaver AED program



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FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.

Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal

hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.

Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):

- School officials with legitimate educational interest;
- Other schools to which a student is transferring;
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
- Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
- Accrediting organizations;
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and

- State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow

parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a PTA bulletin, student handbook, or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school.

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NOTICE FOR DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that De Soto Unified School District #232, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, USD #232 may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow USD #232 to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
 - The annual yearbook;
 - Honor roll or other recognition lists;
 - Graduation programs;
 - Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members, and;
 - District newsletter.
- Directory information, which

is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories - names, addresses and telephone listings - unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.(1)

If you do not want USD #232 to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, then you must notify the District in writing by September 10. USD #232 has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's name
- Participation in officially

- recognized activities and sports
- Address
- Telephone listing (only for military & institutions of higher learning)
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Photograph
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- Major field of study

- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended

Footnotes: 1. These laws are: Section 9528 of the ESEA (20 U.S.C. 7908), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-110), the education bill, and 10 U.S.C. 503, as amended by section 544, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (P.L. 107-107), the legislation that provides funding for the Nation's armed forces.

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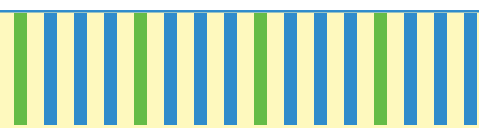
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SIMPLY SPECTACULAR SMILES



FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

DE SOTO HIGH SCHOOL AND MILL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULES



DE SOTO HIGH SCHOOL

Friday, August 27	Green/White Scrimmage	Home	7:00pm
Friday, September 3	Spring Hill	Home	7:00pm
Friday, September 10	Paola	Away	7:00pm
Friday, September 17	Baldwin	Home	7:00pm
Friday, September 24	Eudora	Away	7:00pm
Friday, October 1	Louisburg (Homecoming)	Home	7:00pm
Friday, October 8	Ottawa	Away	7:00pm
Friday, October 15	Bishop Ward (Senior Night)	Home	7:00pm
Friday, October 22	Blue Valley Southwest	Away	7:00pm
Thursday, October 28	St. James	Away	7:00pm
Tuesday, November 2	Bi-District	TBA	
Saturday, November 6	Regional	TBA	
Friday, November 12	Sectional	TBA	
Fri./Sat., Nov. 21/22	Semifinal	TBA	
Saturday, November 27	State Championship	TBA	

MILL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Friday, August 27	Blue/Silver Scrimmage	Home	7:00 pm
Friday, September 3	Lansing	Home	7:00 pm
Friday, September 10	Bonner Springs	Away	7:00 pm
Friday, September 17	Tonganoxie	Away	7:00 pm
Friday, September 24	Bishop Ward (HOMECOMING)	Home	7:00 pm
Friday, October 1	Piper	Home	7:00 pm
Friday, October 8	Basehor-Linwood	Away	7:00 pm
Friday, October 15	Bishop Miege	Away	7:00 pm
Friday, October 22	KC-Harmon	Away	7:00 pm
Friday, October 29	Turner	Home	7:00 pm
Friday, November 5	Regional Football	TBA	
Friday, November 12	Sectional Football	TBA	
Friday, November 19	Sub-State Football	TBA	
Saturday, November 27	State Football Championship	TBA	

2010-2011 SCHOOL CALENDAR

August 2010

4th ENROLLMENT - New Students only in Grades 9-12; 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 5th ENROLLMENT -- All Students Grades K-12; 1 p.m. - 8 p.m.
 6th ENROLLMENT -- All Students Grades K-12; 8 a.m. - noon
 4th-6th New Teachers Report/ New Teacher Academy
 9th NO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS -- Professional In-Service Day
 10th NO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS -- ½ Professional In-Service Day / ½ Teacher Workday
 11th NO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS -- ½ Professional In-Service Day / ½ Teacher Workday
 12th NO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS -- ½ Professional In-Service Day / ½ Teacher Workday
 13th First Day of School for Students in Grades 1-9 -- Start of First Quarter
 16th First Day of School for Students in Grades 10-12
 TBD Kindergarten Open House Times to be determined
 17th First Day of School for Kindergarten Students

September 2010

6th NO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF - Buildings Closed -- Holiday
 7th NO SCHOOL FOR K-5 STUDENTS -- Professional In-service Day for Elementary Teachers / Students in Grades 6-12 in session

October 2010

14th End of First Quarter
 15th NO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS - ½ Professional In-Service Day / ½ Teacher Workday
 18th Start of Second Quarter
 20th NO SCHOOL FOR KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS -- Parent-Teacher Conferences 8:15 a.m.-4:15 p.m./ Students in Grades 1-12 in session - Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
 21st NO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS Parent-Teacher Conferences 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 22nd NO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF -- Buildings Closed

November 2010

24th-26th NO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF -- Buildings Closed

December 2010

17th GRADES 1 - 12 IN SESSION ½ DAY ONLY / ½ Teacher Workday/ NO SCHOOL FOR KINDERGARTEN
 17th End of Second Quarter
 20th-31st NO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF -- Buildings Closed -- WINTER BREAK

January 2011

3rd NO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS - Professional In-Service Day
 4th NO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS - Teacher Workday
 5th Start of Third Quarter
 17th NO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF -- Buildings Closed -- Holiday

February 2011

16th NO SCHOOL FOR KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS -- Parent-Teacher Conferences 8:15 a.m.-4:15 p.m./ Students in Grades 1-12 in session - Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. / Secondary Parent-Teacher Conferences 3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
 17th NO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS- Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences 8:15 a.m.-8:15 p.m./ Secondary Staff Development Day 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Middle School Parent-Teacher Conferences 3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. / High School Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
 18th NO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS - Buildings Closed
 21st NO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF -- Buildings Closed -- Holiday

March 2011

10th End of Third Quarter
 11th NO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS -- ½ Professional In-Service Day / ½ Teacher Workday
 14th-18th NO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF -- Buildings Closed -- SPRING BREAK
 21st Start of Fourth Quarter

April 2011

22nd NO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS- Professional In-Service Day
 25th NO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF - Buildings Closed

May 2011

25th LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR KINDERGARTEN -- Grades 1 - 12 in session
 26th LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR GRADES 1 - 12 -- STUDENTS IN SESSION HALF-DAY ONLY / Half-Day Teacher Workday
 26th End of Fourth Quarter
 30th NO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF -- Buildings Closed - Holiday

FIRST SEMESTER 1st Quarter Aug. 13 → Oct. 14
 2nd Quarter Oct. 18 → Dec. 17
SECOND SEMESTER 3rd Quarter Jan. 5 → Mar. 10
 4th Quarter Mar. 21 → May 26

July 2010

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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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August 2010

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29	30	31				

September 2010

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October 2010

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31						

November 2010

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28	29	30				

December 2010

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January 2011

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February 2011

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March 2011

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April 2011

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

May 2011

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- Beginning of Quarter
- ← End of Quarter
- Enrollment (See Schedule Left)
- △ New Teacher Academy-Tentative
- ◻ First/Last Day of class for Kindergarten (when different from grades 1-12)

- ★ First Day of Class for grades 10-12
- No School (Professional In-Service Day)
- ⓔ Professional In-Service Day for Elementary Teachers-No School K-5; 6-12 in session
- Ⓢ No School (1/2 Professional / 1/2 Workday)
- No School (School/Offices Closed)

- ☺ Students Half Day (1/2 Student contact/1/2 Workday)
- K Kindergarten Conferences
- Ⓚ K-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- No School for all students
- ▽ No School (Teacher Workday)

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State of Kansas additional immunization requirements for 2010-2011 school year

KINDERGARTEN & FIRST GRADE:

- Two varicella (chickenpox) doses
- Three doses of Hepatitis B

SECOND through TENTH GRADE:


- One varicella
- Three Hepatitis B

SEVENTH GRADE:

- Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis)

Proof of immunizations must be provided prior to attending the first day of school.

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STATE AWARD HONORS MVHS SOCIAL WORKER

By Ashlee Kieler, *The Shawnee Dispatch*

Debbie Gudenkauf keeps coming back year after year. The Mill Valley High School social worker can't get enough of helping kids. The reason?

"Knowing that I can make a difference in kids' lives and their families' lives," she said.

With a new school year on the horizon, Gudenkauf is looking back on an eventful summer. It began the week after school let out this spring. She was sitting at her desk finishing reports for the school year when she got the call.

"I was working late on budget stuff for a grant," she said. "I got a call that I had been nominated and selected as Social Worker of the Year by the Kansas Association of School Social Workers."

The call came as quite a surprise to Gudenkauf, who had no idea she had even been nominated. Joe Kordalski, De Soto High School social worker, had entered her name on the sly earlier in the spring.

"That was the first I'd heard about it," Gudenkauf said. "I had no idea, but the principal and special education director had written letters of recommendation. It brought tears to my eyes. At that point in the year, you've worked so hard and you're tired. It's nice to know that others see what you've done."

As part of being selected as Social Worker of the Year, Gudenkauf will travel to Minneapolis for the Midwest School Social Worker Conference. There, she'll attend workshops on how to better communicate social work results to administrators within schools.

"So much is confidential that it can be hard to get across how much we impact student lives," she said. "I'm very excited about that and to learn what others do to help others understand the impact."

Gudenkauf was also recognized at De Soto USD



Debbie Gudenkauf, pictured with Superintendent Ron Wimmer, received the school district's Inspiration Award in July for her efforts as a school social worker and for being named the 2010 Kansas Social Worker of the Year.

232's July 12 Board of Education meeting with the district's Inspiration Award.

"That was really nice," she said. "I got to know Dr. (Ron) Wimmer (superintendent) this year. He took an interest in some of our kids. Most people don't know or understand the nature of our work. It was an award on behalf of all social workers in the district."

After 21 years in the USD 232 school district and 33 years as a social worker, Gudenkauf can't imagine doing anything else.

She started her career working in residential treatment and then went to Shawnee Mission Hospital while receiving her master's degree in social work. Soon after finishing her master's she heard about the job in the

De Soto district.

"A lot of my family has been involved in education," she said of making the choice to work in schools. "I grew up knowing that education was very important. It's the ticket to be able to do what you want to do."

Gudenkauf has worked with students at every level within the district. She's currently stationed at Mill Valley High School, where she works with students on a variety of issues, such as mental health, anxiety, family dynamics, substance abuse, and grief and loss.

Whether a student just needs to talk or work out issues with art therapy, Gudenkauf is there.

"For example anxiety issues," she said. "If a student is anxious about a test, we will do breathing exercises to relax. I'll tell them to close their eyes and visualize themselves taking the test. We'll do positive self talk and teach them to recall what they've studied. They'll become more confident."

Gudenkauf often uses cognitive behavior approaches to help students think through what is happening.

"You use the approach to help them see what would happen if they did this," she said. "It helps them problem solve and it empowers them. It's all about teaching life-long skills."

Gudenkauf couldn't imagine doing anything other than working with students.

"I've always been a social worker at heart," she said. "There were instances in elementary school when I stood up for people. It's always who I've been."

"I love what I do and I really want kids to leave Mill Valley not only with math and science knowledge but to know that even if they suffer from mental health issues they can get through it. They have the resources in them and they will know where they can reach out."

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CREATIVITY FLOWS AT CAMP INVENTION

SECOND YEAR OF SCIENCE-FOCUSED CAMP DOUBLES ENROLLMENT

By Ashlee Kieler, *The Shawnee Dispatch* – used by permission



Students in grades one through six spent part of their summer at Camp Invention held at Prairie Ridge. The program focused on 21st century life skills such as problem-solving and teamwork through hands-on activities.

From a mysterious scientist to medieval games, first- through sixth-graders enjoyed hands-on science, math, art and history activities at De Soto USD 232's Camp Invention.

The weeklong day camp, in its second year in the district, is designed to allow students to unleash their creative genius through individual and team-building activities.

This year, 83 campers took part in a variety of activities each day.

Hayden Knight, who will be a third-grader at Mize Elementary, attended the camp for a second year.

"It's really fun and you get to learn about new stuff," he said. "In school they don't make it as fun; the people that work here are making it fun to learn."

Hayden's favorite activity for the week was Hatched, a module that combines online virtual worlds to relay economic solutions to problems. Students work in teams to create thriving worlds.

"You make avatar people and cars and stores," he said. "We used supplies from the recycling rooms to make our cities."

Kate Miller, who will enter fifth grade at Prairie Ridge Elementary, also attended the camp for her second year.

"It was a lot of fun, and I like science, so I wanted to come back," she said.

Kate said one reason she liked the camp was that she could review concepts

she learned at school the previous year.

"You don't build as much in school and you don't go into the halls and stuff," she said. "Camp is hands-on; it makes it more interesting."

Other activities included:

- Power'd, where students explore new types of energy and learn about wind, solar and hydro energy by creating creatures using battery circuits.
- SMArt: Science, Math & Art, in which students use imagination, creative problem-solving and math to create patterns.
- I Can Invent III, where students built machines from recycled materials and broken appliances.
- Global Games, in which students study sports such as lacrosse, soccer and dice.

Kathy McBride, camp coordinator for the district, said this year's camp was more student led.

"When kids are engaged and involved, the amount of things retained are more validated," she said.

McBride said the camp received a strong turnout from primary grades.

"It's exciting to see them (students) excited in math and science," she said. "I hope they learn they truly are the makers of their own destiny, that if they have great ideas they can make them."

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER WINS NATIONAL AWARD FROM DOLLY PARTON

By Clayton Hensley, *Knoxville Day Trips Examiner*



Keil Hileman, teacher at Monticello Trails Middle School, is the 2010 recipient of the Dolly Parton Chasing Rainbows Award. Hileman, pictured with Dolly Parton, his wife Amy and three daughters, received the award in June in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

PIGEON FORGE, TENNESSEE—

Never believe anyone who tells you dreams don't come

true. That is a lesson Dolly Parton shared with about a thousand people gathered June 11, 2010, at Dollywood's Showstreet

Palace. The country music superstar was back home in Sevier County to mark more milestones.

In addition to updates on the park's 25th Anniversary, flood relief efforts in Nashville and presenting the 25-millionth Imagination Library Book, Parton handed out the 2010 Chasing Rainbows Award. The teaching award went to Keil Hileman a middle school Social Studies and History Teacher at Monticello Trails Middle School in Shawnee, Kansas.

Dollywood Foundation director David Dotson joined Parton on stage to introduce Hileman. Dotson told the audience Hileman had overcome many obstacles in his life. At one point Hileman was told he would not be able to walk, be able to see or have children.

When Hileman walked on stage, it was obvious he had proved his critics wrong. Hileman towered over Parton and

she commented on his beautiful family she had met prior to the presentation. Hileman has three children.

"We know how important it is for our kids to be inspired," said Parton. "We all have memories of teachers both good and bad, but hopefully good."

After receiving the Chasing Rainbows Award, Hileman told the crowd he was passionate about teaching and wouldn't want to do anything else. Earlier David Dotson had said Hileman "inspires his students to grow as learners, but he clearly inspires his students to grow as people."

The Chasing Rainbows Award recipient is chosen by the National State Teachers of the Year organization. The first award was given to Dolly Parton in 2002 during the dedication of the Chasing Rainbows Museum at Dollywood.



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