The Dickinson Press loves to support all school districts in Southwest ND! If your school would like to supply editorial content once per month, or if you own a business and would like to sponsor the DPS Chronicle or other school’s sections, we want to hear from you! Please call Jenn Binstock, Advertising Sales Director, at 701-456-1222.

Behind every pre-trip sheet and every steering wheel is someone with their own lives, families, strengths, weaknesses, skills, and expertise in each family, you have different personalities, different dawn to the sunset of the evening. Just like with any rhyme we learned back in our preschool days. But what is it like to need the help, and we are always willing to extend that help to another. Why do we so quickly do these things? Because of the kiddos who ride Dickinson Public School busses. It’s about their safety. It’s about their well-being. We see each kid just like they are one of our own, and we want to protect them, keep them warm, and make sure that they are safe between pick-ups and drop-offs.

The Wheels on the Bus

By: LaCota Domine
DPS Bus Driver

In November of this school year, I met with Burton Leeston, Transportation Manager for Harlow’s School Bus Service, to explore the possibility of an engaging literacy experience for DPS bus students. The initial apprehension of implementing this new idea quickly grew into great excitement, and with that I launched my first two “ride alongs” as Rhinestone Rhonda in December. In January, we added two more routes.

As the student passengers, ranging from Kindergarten to Grade 12 board the bus after school, I greeted each one personally, and in return, received many spontaneous smiles. After all students were picked up from their schools, I gave a brief overview to the group of my purpose as a guest on their bus: to remind them of the importance and benefits of reading often, to appreciate the art of storytelling and the benefits of listening to stories, and to inspire them to share books with others and recognize that literacy is a social activity, one to be enjoyed with family and friends.

Students listened to a variety of short stories through a portable sound system during the bus route. Several of the stories I shared came from a collection of entertaining ones my grandmother told me throughout my childhood, which I consider rich in language and imagination.

Amelia Wright, Dispatcher and Router for Harlows provided me with names and grade levels of the bus students. One highlight for me was hearing and seeing the surprised reactions of students listened to a story or two adapted to their grade levels. The incredible support and enthusiasm from Burt and Amanda to the bus drivers to the students has been a complete delight! I am looking forward to more reading rides along. Happy Trails and Happy Reading!

Before departing the bus for the day each student received a book from The Book Corral DPS Sharing Library. Included with the book was an invitation to the Book Corral, which is open to all DPS families. Books of all reading levels, birth through adult are available. At this time, the sharing library is located in the School Pantry at The Hagen Building and is open every Tuesday from 2:00-6:00 p.m. Additionally, a box of books from The Book Corral has been placed on the rural buses which was initiated by a kindergarten student suggesting a “bus library”. Students are welcome to take a book to read or look at during the route and can return it before getting off the bus or keep it until he/she is finished.

I am so grateful for this unique opportunity to extend our school district’s literacy goals to bus students. The incredible support and enthusiasm from Burt and Amanda to the bus drivers to the students has been a complete delight! I am looking forward to more reading rides along. Happy Trails and Happy Reading!

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The Dickinson Chapter has (7) chapter officers: President Kate Enney, Vice President Hunter Moreno, Secretary Justin Wardell, Treasurer Bailey Birdstock, Parliamentarian Jared Kostelecky, Historian Austin Barnhart, and Reporter Charly Wyatt. SkillsUSA chapter advisors are Mrs. Lehman (Drafting), Mrs. Sadowski (Health Sciences), Mr. Smith (PowerSports/Auto), Mrs. Hauck (Welding), Mrs. Guillaume (Health Sciences), Mr. Schmidt (Building Trades), and Mrs. Rhode (Health Sciences).

The team is working very hard to prepare for state competition in the following contests:
- Welding
- Carpentry
- Health Knowledge Bowl
- Related Math
- Prepared Speech
- Auto Service Technician
- Job Skill Demonstration
- Technical Drafting
- Architectural Drafting
- Firefighting
- Power Equipment Tech
- Welding Fabrication Team
- Building Trades Teamworks
- Pin Design
- First Aid/CPR
- Job Interview
- Welding Sculpture

The ND State Competition will be held in Wahpeton, April 3-5th, and the state winners will compete in Atlanta, GA in June. GOOD LUCK everyone!!!!

SkillsUSA is a Career and Technical Education (CTE) student-run organization at Dickinson High School. SkillsUSA teaches students personal, workplace, and technical skills to ensure America has the best-skilled workforce. Dickinson High School SkillsUSA is open to grades 9-12 students enrolled in a qualifying CTE class in the areas of Health Sciences, Welding, Drafting, Construction, Automotive, or Powersports.

This year students attended both the Fall Leadership Conference in Valley City, as well as the Mid-America Conference in Columbus, NE. While at these conferences, the students learned networking, leadership, and collaboration skills. After the leadership conferences, our group has been working on fundraising projects to help students in need at DHS. Their most recent fundraiser was an ice cream social.

SkillsUSA allows students to take the industry standards they learn in the classroom and apply them to real-world scenarios. It creates partnerships for students, teachers, and industry to develop educational advancement, as well as scholarship and job opportunities. Over the years, Dickinson High School and Roughrider Area Career and Tech (RACTC) have had many successes at the State Level. Most recently, DHS and RACTC had five state winners in April of 2022, Welding (DHS), Architectural Drafting (DHS), Automotive (DHS), Dental Assisting (RACTC), and Pin Design (RACTC). Those students who win at the state level go on to compete at the National SkillsUSA and Leadership Conference. Again, in past years, DHS has been very successful. In June 2017, DHS Powersports finished 4th place; 2018 1st, and 2019 2nd place.

Dickinson Public Schools thrives because of its outstanding students, staff, and faculty members. Congratulations to all for your remarkable achievements!

2022 Best of the Western Edge

The Dickinson Press announces the winners of 2022 Best of the Western Edge, and DPS is celebrating its incredible wins! A big congratulations to:
- Dave Hiestand - Citizen of the Year
- Pete Dobitz - Best Coach
- Meghan Girard - Best Counselor
- Henry Mack - Best School Principle

The Best of the Western Edge contest is special as it is nominated and voted on by the Dickinson community. Thank you to all our winners for leaving a positive mark in the lives of our students, classroom, and the community. Congratulations on this memorable win!
By: Tracy Leoce
Principal at Berg Elementary

As the holidays are quickly approaching, there is much excitement in the air! During the month of December, the Berg Student Council planned some fun dress-up events for students and staff. December was also celebrated with the 1st-grade Extreme Weather Reports and shared them with the third graders who will have the report experience next year. Fourth-grade presentations were also recorded using Swivls, allowing students to watch their own presentations. Berg students will enjoy a school-wide holiday activity of cookie decorating on December 20.

Berg Elementary students and staff would like to thank all stakeholders for the awesome school year we have had so far and wish everyone Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!