

Des Moines Public Schools

# DMPS COMMUNITY REPORT

April 2012

- 3 Board Holds Community Conversations
- 4 Titanic Explorer Visits Central Campus
- 5 Sound and Focused FY2013 Budget
- 6 Celebrating our Achievements
- 7 Superintendent Heads To Omaha
- 8 KDPS Radio Goes Global
- 9 Be Aware of Synthetic Drugs
- 10 2012 Commencement Ceremonies



The Des Moines Public School district is becoming well-known on a national level for its energy savings.

## DMPS Named 2012 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has named Des Moines Public Schools as a 2012 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year for strategically managing and improving the energy efficiency of its entire building portfolio.

Through its partnership with the ENERGY STAR program, DMPS

has improved its energy performance, saved money and helped to protect the environment for future generations.

Partner of the Year Award winners were selected from about 20,000 partners that participate in the ENERGY STAR program. Bill Good, Chief Operations

*Continued on Page 2...*

## Five Year Graduation Rate is Moving Up

Recent graduation data released by the Iowa Department of Education proves that Des Moines Public Schools is finding innovative ways to help students complete high school.

The district's five-year graduation rate increased by nearly six percent, according to State figures. A total of 82.88% of the members of the class of 2010 graduated

within five years (i.e. received their high school diploma by 2011), up from 76.97% of students in the class of 2009 who did so.

In addition, the five-year graduation rate for the class of 2010 at Des Moines' five comprehensive high schools – East, Hoover, Lincoln, North and Roosevelt –

*Continued on Page 3...*



## DMPS Named 2012 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year

*Continued from Page 1...*

Officer, along with Dick Murphy, School Board Vice-Chair, received the award on behalf of the district in Washington, D.C. on March 15, 2012.

“The school district’s commitment to manage our energy use in partnership with ENERGY STAR has paid big dividends for our schools and the entire community,” said Good. “Making our buildings more energy efficient has saved us millions of dollars

### Energy Efficiency Impact and Achievements

Des Moines Public Schools energy consumption management tools and strategies have achieved the following successes:

- \$1.7 million have been saved since the launch of the ENERGY STAR initiative in Des Moines Public Schools three years ago.
- 70% of the district’s ENERGY STAR buildings have an efficiency rating of 90 and above.
- Between fiscal year 2007-08 and fiscal year 2009-10, Des Moines Public Schools reduced energy use by 60,913 mBtu, preventing the emission of almost 5,700 metric tons of carbon dioxide, or the equivalent to the annual greenhouse gas emissions from more than 1,100 passenger vehicles.
- Establishment of the Iowa Energy and Sustainability Academy at Central Campus, a college level instruction and work learning program about alternative energy and environmental science.



From left to right: Les Wilson, The Energy Group; James Wilkerson, DMPS; Bill Good, DMPS; Jean Lupinacci, U.S. E.P.A.; Dick Murphy, Des Moines School Board; Dan Zaug, Johnson Controls; Todd Magnani, Johnson Controls.

in resources at a critical time for education. We are fortunate to have many partners working with us in this effort, including MidAmerican Energy, and are honored to be recognized by EPA for our efforts.”

With a focus on ongoing performance measurement and whole-building improvement, EPA’s ENERGY STAR program provides a proven energy management strategy that has helped DMPS achieve important reductions in energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

Forty-three public schools in Des Moines are currently ENERGY STAR-rated, with four additional schools being added to the list this spring.

“As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the ENERGY STAR program, EPA is proud to recognize Des Moines Public Schools with the 2012 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year Award,” said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. “The Des Moines school district and all our ENERGY STAR award winners are improving the energy efficiency of the places where we work, play and learn which is good for our climate, the health of our economy, and our future.”

Energy performance improvements have been made throughout the district, including the installation of geothermal systems at 27 schools, with four more schools due to be added when renovation work going on this summer is completed. Other key energy/cost saving aspects of the district’s renovation projects are installation of high efficiency lighting systems and replacement of windows and doors.

“We congratulate Des Moines Public Schools on this outstanding achievement,” said Diane Munns, Vice President of Regulatory Relations and Energy Efficiency for MidAmerican Energy Company. “Their energy-saving efforts are serving as a national model for other school districts to follow.”

EPA’s annual ENERGY STAR Awards honor organizations that have made outstanding contributions to protecting the environment through superior energy efficiency. Over the past 20 years, American families and businesses have saved nearly \$230 billion on utility bills and prevented greenhouse gas emissions equal to those from more than 350 million vehicles. ■

## Five Year Graduation Rate is Moving Up

*Continued from Page 1...*

also increased, from 83.09% for the class of 2009 to 85.49% for the class of 2010.

“The school district has really increased its dropout prevention efforts over the last five years and we are seeing positive results,” said Bryce Amos, Executive Director for Learning Services. “We now offer credit recovery programs and Academic Support Labs at all of the high schools as well as other supports to help students successfully complete high school.”

State figures do show a small decline in the percentage of Iowa high school students who graduate in four years, with a statewide graduation rate of 88.3% for the class of 2011 compared to 88.8% for the class of 2010. The statewide graduation rate for the class of 2009 was 87.3%.

DMPS also saw a slight decline in the overall four-year graduation rate last year. The graduation rate for the class of 2011 was 75.68% compared to a rate of 78.48% for the class of 2010. The 2011 rate is above the class of 2009, which

## DES MOINES PUBLIC SCHOOLS GRADUATION RATE

Four- and Five-Year Rates for 2009-2011



had a graduation rate of 72.7%. “Anything short of 100% means we have work to do in order to make sure every student is best prepared for their next stage in life. The fact is Des Moines – like Iowa and the nation – continues to face an achievement gap among too many students who are minority or live in poverty, and we cannot lose sight of resolving that issue,” said Superintendent Nancy Sebring. “At the same time, the effort to help more and more students graduate – even if it takes extra time – is showing success.”

In the fall of 2009, DMPS implemented the Early Indicator

System (EIS) to help identify students at risk of dropping out of school. The EIS tracks attendance, class performance, and discipline/behavior issues at the elementary and secondary levels. Each high school’s Academic Support Lab helps serve the students who are identified through the EIS.

Statewide dropout data for 2010-11 also was released by the State. The DMPS dropout rate for grades 7-12 was 4.8%, which is unchanged from 2009 to 2010. The dropout rate in 2008-2009 was 5.1%. ■

## Join The Community Conversation

In 2007, the Des Moines School Board asked the community a basic question: what knowledge, skills and abilities should high school graduates have in order to be ready for their next stage in life? Thanks to feedback from thousands of people in surveys, focus groups and community meetings, the school district established “Graduate Ends” as the expectations for students.

Today, the School Board would like to ask the community if these expectations for students are still on the right track.

This is being done in one of two ways. First, all parents, students in grade 8 and above, district staff members, and thousands

of people throughout the community have been invited to participate in an online survey.

If you’ve already completed the survey, thank you for your participation. If you received a postcard or email and have not yet completed the survey, please do so at your earliest convenience. Des Moines Public Schools wants your feedback and input.

Second, the School Board will be hosting five town hall meetings throughout Des Moines. Join us to hear what people feel about DMPS at this important time in our district. Information will be shared from the survey and the community will be involved in a facilitated discussion to share your thoughts and ideas. ■

**The meetings, which will begin at 5:30 PM, will be held as follows:**

- Monday, April 30 - Meredith Middle School – 4827 Madison Avenue
- Thursday, May 3 - Weeks Middle School – 901 E. Park Avenue
- Monday, May 7 - Callanan Middle School – 3010 Center Street
- Tuesday, May 8 - Hiatt Middle School – 1214 E. 15th Street
- Thursday, May 10 - Harding Middle School – 203 E. Euclid Avenue



World famous explorer Dr. David Gallo of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute speaks to the Marine Biology class at Central Campus.

## Central Campus Marine Biology Program Runs Deeper Than Ever

DMPS first dipped its toe in the waters of Marine Biology in 1985 when Dr. Karen Stiles was asked to start a program at the newly launched Central Campus.

At first the program fit inside a donated 29-gallon aquarium and attracted 11 students. Twenty-six years later, as Dr. Stiles counts down the days until her retirement, the program consists of some 200 students immersed in an impressive new lab with 14,000 gallons of saltwater and a menagerie of colorful and exotic aquatic life.

It's one thing for landlubbers smack dab in the middle of the country to be impressed by the marine biology and aquarium science facilities at Central Campus. But it's quite another when a world renowned oceanographer like Dr. David Gallo tours them and his jaw drops like a shark's at feeding time.

Dr. Gallo is the Director of Special Projects at the world famous Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute near Cape Cod,

Massachusetts. Woods Hole is the largest private, nonprofit ocean research, engineering and education organization in the world. And they work on a lot of special projects there. Right now a team is readying to go in search of the giant squid first imagined in the Jules Verne classic, *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*.

Dr. Gallo was in town last month to speak as part of DMACC's iWeek festivities and Superintendent Nancy Sebring encouraged DMACC West Campus Provost Tony Paustian to bring him to Central to meet and talk with students.

He's a man who's been to the ocean floor and back many times, leading expeditions to the resting place of the Titanic that he calls "ghostly" voyages "into eternity" and others in search of sunken airliner black boxes that equated to "searching for a shoebox in the Rocky Mountains at night with a flashlight." So when "unbelievable" and "incredible" and "impressive"

and "tremendous" are sprinkled throughout his commentary like fish food while senior Rosalie Henson, who plans a career in marine biology, guides him through the labyrinth of exotically stocked tanks you realize those adjectives are coming from someone who knows his way around underwater.

By way of introducing himself to his audience here, Dr. Gallo listed an ADD/PhD among his credentials. He said he was always uncomfortable and distracted in school until he saw a National Geographic special about undersea exploration and the switch flipped on a curiosity that's oceanic in scope and still unquenched. His post-secondary education started at a community college. Now he's an Italian-American Jacques Cousteau cruising deep beneath the seven seas in a submersible named Alvin, an aquanaut instead of the astronaut he fantasized becoming as a boy. He talks about the seas the same way Carl Sagan did about outer space.

He told the students that "it's important to learn what's already known, but dreaming is a big part of science," and likened scientific inquiry and research to sequential leveling in video games. He talked about the oceans being as deep as jets fly high, about the Gulf Stream being a river of heat running through them. He said the tallest mountains on earth erupted from the ocean floor, sounding all the while more poetic than scientific, even comparing the 250+ scientists at Woods Hole to an orchestra.

As impressed as he clearly was by the Central Campus facilities, Dr. Gallo seemed equally so by the inquisitive students he encountered. When he narrated a PowerPoint about a Titanic expedition, one who's been studying the legendary

*Continued on Page 5...*

## Marine Biology Program Runs Deeper Than Ever

*Continued from Page 4...*

ship for several years took up where Gallo left off. Others peppered him with questions about the physiological effects of prolonged deep water diving in a bathysphere. Another hypothesized about the potential of deep water research projects leading to the discovery of undersea freshwater lakes.

Dr. Gallo sees “something amazing every day” in his work “and today it was this place,” one where careers like his begin. Before leaving he pledged to keep in touch with his new discovery deep in the Midwest. “When I go back to Woods Hole I’ll be babbling about this for some time,” he marveled. In his wake will be a



Students listen as Dr. David Gallo speaks to the Marine Biology class at Central Campus.

school, if you will, of students anxious to dive headlong into their futures.

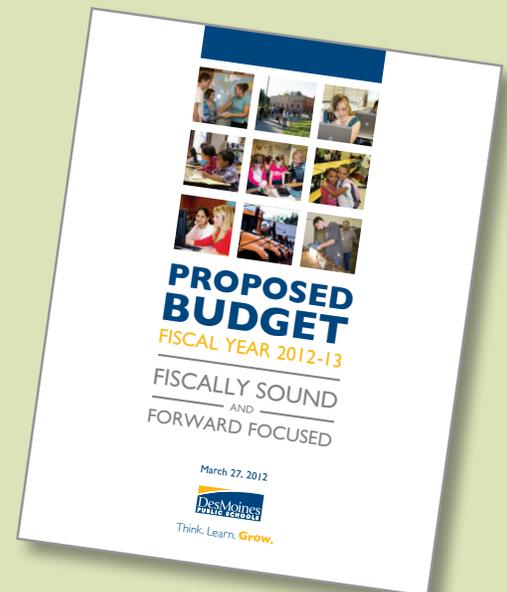
“The annual ecology trip to Florida,” from which Dr. Stiles and her students recently returned, “has a tradition in which kids sit along the shoreline at night gazing out at the ocean as they reflect about personal goals,” she said. This year

that was an occasion for Dr. Stiles to do some reflecting of her own. “I looked around me at the students spread out along the beach and realized their personal frontiers are every bit as exciting and full of potential” as the deepest oceans. And so, thanks to her, is the exemplary program she created for DMPS. ■

## FY 2013 Budget: Fiscally Sound and Forward Focused

The School Board unanimously approved the district’s \$474 million budget, including \$364 million in general funds, for the 2013 fiscal year beginning on July 1. While the combination of a recent economic recession, state budget cuts over the past ten years, and historic low allowable growth has created significant challenges in funding public education in Iowa, the Board approved a budget that is fiscally sound and forward focused. Some key points about this year’s budget for Des Moines Public Schools include:

- Eighty-six percent of the general fund is directed towards instruction and student support, with 9% covering district operations and less than 5% for administration.
- Next year’s budget was helped by the fact that DMPS had an enrollment increase of nearly 600 students, the largest of any district in Iowa this year.
- The budget approved by the Board includes a cap of 10% on the district’s unspent spending authority and an 8% solvency ratio.
- The budget does not include funding for new programs, and is instead focused on maintaining levels to the greatest degree possible for existing programs.
- The budget also includes no change in the district’s tax rate; DMPS has not increased taxes during 7 of the past 8 years.
- While 32 full-time positions are affected due to grants coming to an end, many of these employees will likely remain with the district in other positions that are open due to retirements or resignations.



- The budget includes \$71.9 million in revenue bonds, to be repaid using sales tax revenue, for the renovation of more than a dozen schools.

For more information on the FY 2013 budget, visit [budget.dmschools.org](http://budget.dmschools.org). ■

# Celebrating Our Achievements

This regular feature of the *DMPS Community Report* highlights awards and achievements of district students and staff. Please let us know if you have a notable achievement to share by e-mailing Sarah Taylor at [sarah.taylor@dmschools.org](mailto:sarah.taylor@dmschools.org). Here are some achievements from the past few months.

East High School freshman **Apple Jackson Amos** and Roosevelt High School sophomore **Lily Nellans** were selected to serve on a new student state advisory group to discuss key issues that impact students and schools.

**Alex Hernandez, Logan Neades, Amanda Senn, Ken Sayavong, Ngoc Truong** and **A.J. Walker**, members of the North High School robotics team coached by **Bryan Butcher**, competed at the FIRST Tech Challenge - Iowa Championship on February 25. North's robot Fluffy 5.5 earned the maximum amount of points in four out of six rounds at the competition, and the team earned the Motivate Award for their enthusiasm and effort throughout the event.

The Lincoln High School swim team sent 11 athletes to the 2012 IHSAA state swimming meet — more than the rest of the Metro Conference combined: **Luis Arias, Brady Edwards, Matt Friend, Mitchell Friend, Curtis Knapp, Hunter Hofmaier, Kort Kern, Michael Nachtigal, Chase Shumaker, Keaton Tripp** and **Carter Worth**.

**Mitch Arends (senior), Ian Baker (senior), Ross Turner (senior) and Max Ward (junior)**, competed for Roosevelt High School in the 2012 IHSAA state swimming meet. Ward was the state champion in the 100 butterfly and Turner was named to the Academic All-State Swim Team.

Central Campus Broadcasting and Film students **Connor Bredbeck**

(Roosevelt), **Alex Garrett** (Hoover), **Aaron Hosman** (East), and **Lexi Ridout** (Roosevelt) were recognized by the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence for their recent contributions to "Dating Violence Awareness Month."

**Brittany Smith**, a junior at Lincoln High School, was the state champion in the 2012 IHSAA girls' bowling tournament.

Lincoln High School qualifiers in the 2012 IHSAA state boys' bowling tournament were **Dalten Cross, Kevin Duver, Mitch Duver, Brandon Faktor, Ryan Felton** and **Connor McNelly**.

Hoover High School qualifiers for the 2012 IHSAA state bowling tournaments were **Heather Hodges, Levi Bales, Sean Halverson, Tanner Peeler, Ben Phillips, Daid Reiersen**, and **Cameron Van Gundy**.

Two DMPS educators were honored on March 6, 2012 at the Drake University School of Education annual alumni awards banquet. **Tim Schott**, Executive Director for Secondary Schools, and Monroe Elementary music teacher **Patricia Trump**, were two of four educators who received alumni awards.

**Joseph Bahnsen**, a junior at East, received a \$2,000 scholarship from the ACE (Architecture, Construction, Engineering) Mentoring Program during the ACE annual awards banquet.

*Continued on Page 7...*



**Thayne Henderson, Chris Markle, and Amra Softic**, members of Hoover High School's Real World Design Challenge Team coached by **Mark Schnurstein**, received second place at the Iowa Real World Design Challenge held at the Science Center on February 18. Their challenge was to build a light sport aircraft using computer programs and techniques that are used by the aerospace industry. Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds presented the Hoover team with the runner-up award at the state competition.

# Celebrating Our Achievements

*Continued from Page 6...*

**Roosevelt High School** placed first in the 2012 All Iowa Speech Championships held at the University of Iowa. The Roosevelt debate team was runner-up in the All Iowa Finals Championship. In addition, **Harry Strong**, Roosevelt speech/debate coach, was named 2012 Speech/Debate Coach of the Year by the All Iowa coaches.

Roosevelt High School sophomore debater **Lily Nellans** earned Premier Distinction — the National Forensic League’s highest degree of student membership.

Roosevelt/Central Academy senior **Tyler Foley** was awarded the Gold Key — the highest level of achievement — in the 2012

Midwest Region Scholastic Writing Competition for his personal essay, “Jenga.”

Roosevelt/Central Academy seniors **Jeannene Clark**, **Grace Payer**, and **Sarah Ramundt** received Honorable Mention in the 2012 Midwest Region Scholastic Writing Competition for their essays.

**Ria Gasaway**, a senior at North High School, received a 2011-2012 Discus Award for her achievements in work, community service and academics. She also is eligible for 2011-2012 Discus Awards scholarship.

Five DMPS wrestlers qualified for the 2012 IHSAA state wrestling



Roosevelt Senior John Meeks poses as the undefeated 4-time state wrestling champion.

tournament. They were East freshman **Josh Davis**, North senior **Brian Warren** (4-time state qualifier), Roosevelt sophomore **Jake Kristensen**, Roosevelt senior **D’riee Shirley**, and Roosevelt senior **John Meeks** (undefeated 4-time state champion). ■

## Superintendent Sebring Heads to Omaha

After six years as Superintendent of Des Moines Public Schools, Dr. Nancy Sebring will become the next leader of Omaha Public Schools, a district of nearly 50,000 students and 7,000 employees in Nebraska’s largest city.

“On behalf of the School Board, I want to wish Nancy the very best as the new superintendent in Omaha,” said Terec Caldwell-Johnson, chair of the Des Moines School Board. “From leading our district through some of the most difficult financial times in Iowa history to implementing efforts to move student achievement forward, Nancy met the challenges facing our schools head on and has left our district and community the better

for it. It should be no surprise that larger school districts would want someone of her experience and ability as their next superintendent, and we wish her continued success.”

“The School Board will now give our attention to finding the best possible person to lead Iowa’s largest provider of public education,” added Caldwell-Johnson. “Over the next several days, we will begin to develop our plan on setting the criteria, procedures and timeline for this very important search process. In the end, we will not settle for anyone other than the best person who can successfully lead our district and work with our students, parents, teachers, staff and everyone in Des Moines committed to



Dr. Nancy Sebring

supporting and improving public education.”

The Des Moines School Board is currently looking to have an interim Superintendent serve during the 2012-13 school year, when it will begin a search for a permanent replacement. ■



## KDPS Signal Now Going Global

Who knows if the Muppets or MacNeil/Lehrer or Frontline or even Downton Abbey would ever have been viewed in the Des Moines area were it not for KDPS?

In many ways, the roots of public broadcasting in Iowa extend into Des Moines Public Schools, all the way back to 1969 when the State of Iowa agreed to purchase Channel 11 and the KDPS-TV equipment from the Des Moines School Board.

Iowa Public Television has come a long way since then, but so have the DMPS Broadcasting and Film program and KDPS Radio, which first took to the airwaves more than half a century ago. Recently the program opened another chapter in its history when KDPS Radio became part of the “Live365” web-streamed broadcasting network, making the student-run station available around the world. In addition to listening on air at 88.1 FM, listeners can go to [www.live365.com](http://www.live365.com) and search for KDPS. There is also an iPhone and Android app so you can listen to KDPS on the go.

“Live web-streaming of the radio content is an exciting and authentic way to give our students career experience,” says Kirk Johnson who, along with Tim

Coleman, teaches in the award-winning program.

“There’s no doubt we’ll get a wider range of listeners with the new web-stream, and it’s definitely great for all of the deejays with family living outside of our broadcast area,” according to Roosevelt senior Drew Parker.

“We love it when student deejays tell us they have family listening in places like Boston. It’s mind-blowing to think that their audience now includes the entire planet instead of just the metro and surrounding communities,” adds Johnson.

Edgar Rosa is a former KDPS deejay (Class of 2009) who studied film production at Emerson College and has been accepted into the graduate program at the prestigious American Film Institute. He says the live streaming gives him a chance “to listen to my memories of high school.” Rosa also says KDPS can “differentiate itself from every other high school radio station with the technology and talent there.” Live high school broadcasters are streaming every weekday from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM and that’s “the only way that my dad gets to listen to my show,” commented Hoover senior Erik Hoffman.

Live web streaming is just the latest in a long-running timeline of innovations dating to 1959, when Des Moines Technical High School was moved from the old West High building at 15th and Center Streets to the remodeled Solar Aircraft building at 18th and Grand, originally a Ford Motor Company plant. Now the oft-reinvented facility currently known as Central Campus is undergoing another facelift.

KDPS-TV also went on the air when KDPS Radio moved into its new home. The original radio license was held by KCBC which used the transmitter to broadcast music to the city busses. But there was too little commerce in a commercial FM station providing ambient music for bus riders, so the FM transmitter was given to the Des Moines Public Schools and used to put KDPS 88.1FM on the air.

Today, students create and market their own one-hour shows which include music, public service announcements, weather, and the 88 *Second News Update*. The program provides advanced career preparation with real world experience in the areas of radio, television, and film production. Students in this program develop their skills in a studio environment while receiving high school and college credit. The two-year curriculum is focused on the creative and communication aspects of the industry. Considerable time is spent on the craft of planning, writing, equipment operation and production techniques.

The program serves students from up to 30 participating school districts in central Iowa. When school is not in session, programming is shared with the students of Grandview University which operates remotely from their own campus studio.

And now it’s available “Live365”! ■

# PARENTS: Be Aware of Synthetic Drugs

On two occasions this year, ambulances have been called to Des Moines high schools to rush students to the hospital after they used synthetic drugs.

While school officials, law enforcement and legislators attempt to deal with this issue – made all the more complicated by the fact that many of these synthetic drugs are legally sold – we want parents to also be aware of what this means to your children.

The Partnership at DrugFreeIowa.org is joining with the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy in calling on parents to set aside a few minutes to talk with their sons and daughters about making healthy choices to prevent drug abuse.

"It's timely now for parents to talk with children about drugs, especially in light of increasing reports of Iowa teenagers using new synthetic drugs, and many of them requiring hospital treatment," said Peter Komendowski, President of the Partnership at DrugFreeIowa.org. "Research shows that key adult influencers who ask questions, set boundaries and monitor friends can reduce the odds of teenagers ever using drugs."

Studies by the Partnership at DrugFree.org repeatedly show that teenagers who learn about the risks of drugs through ongoing dialog with parents at home are up to 50 percent less likely to ever use drugs.

"The growing number of Iowa teenagers using potentially

dangerous synthetic products and misusing prescription medicines requires a redoubling of efforts to talk with our children about drugs," said Dale Woolery, Interim Director of the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy. "While still addressing the importance of avoiding underage drinking and other more established drugs of abuse, we need to broaden our message to youth to say: Don't take anything if you don't know what it is, if it's not prescribed for you, or if it's not from a trusted adult."

For more information about synthetic drugs and talking with your children about them, visit the Partnership at [www.DrugFreeIowa.org](http://www.DrugFreeIowa.org) or the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy at [www.iowa.gov/odcp](http://www.iowa.gov/odcp). ■

## Summer Opportunities

Looking for some fun and educational activities for your children this summer? There are many options in Des Moines!

### Sports, Swimming and More through Des Moines Parks & Recreation

Play golf and build character! The First Tee of Greater Des Moines offers 4-week golf lessons for students ages 9 to 17 at golf courses around the city (Grand View, A.H. Blank, Waveland). Cost is a one-time fee of \$40 for each 4-week session. The First Tee aims at providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf. For more information, visit <http://www.thefirstteegreaterdesmoines.org/Club/Scripts/Home/home.asp> or call (515) 979-1799.

### Learn the basics of tennis!

Free tennis lessons will be offered this summer through the USTA (United States Tennis Association) NJTL (National Junior Tennis League) program for children ages 9 to 14. The traveling instructional lessons

require no pre-registration, simply show up five minutes before the lessons begin and your child may attend. All lessons are held at tennis courts within the Park. For specific location information, date, time, and age visit <http://www.dmgov.org/Departments/Parks/Pages/USTANJTLTennisProgram.aspx>.

### Have fun at several swimming pools around the city!

Swimming pools open for the season on June 1, 2012. To find out more about swimming pools and other summer activities offered through Parks and Recreation, visit <http://www.dmgov.org/departments/parks/Pages/default.aspx>.

### Attend a Summer Safari Camp at the Blank Park Zoo!

Summer Safari Camps are offered for children ages three through seventh grade and are held all summer! Topics include "Wiggle Worms," "Sea to Shining Sea," "Night Crawlers," "Word in the Wild,"

and more. To check dates and register your child, go to <http://www.blankparkzoo.com/index.cfm?nodeID=18146>.

### Experience the Curious-Minds-Make-Clever-Campers Effect at SCI!

Science Center of Iowa Summer Camps use project-based curriculum on a variety of subjects and provide hands-on experiences to spark your camper's interest in science. More than 60 unique summer camps for all ages and expanded iEARTH adventures for 2012 will be offered. Visit <http://www.sciowa.org/learn/camps/> for more information.

### Stay Cool at the Library

Visit any of the six libraries around the city this summer and you're sure to have an exciting and educational time! Plus, it's free! For more information about summer library activities, go to <http://www.pldminfo.org/>. ■

# 2012 Commencement Ceremonies

<b>Lincoln</b>	Saturday	May 26, 12:00 P.M.	Knapp Center at Drake
<b>East</b>	Saturday	May 26, 3:30 P.M.	Knapp Center at Drake
<b>Roosevelt</b>	Saturday	May 26, 7:00 P.M.	Knapp Center at Drake
<b>North</b>	Sunday	May 27, 7:00 P.M.	Knapp Center at Drake
<b>Hoover</b>	Tuesday	May 29, 7:00 P.M.	Knapp Center at Drake
<b>Scavo</b>	Sunday	June 3, 3:00 P.M.	Hoyt Sherman Place
<b>Ruby Van Meter</b>	Wednesday	May 30, 7:00 P.M.	Callanan Auditorium

## Important Dates

### April 24

No school for 9th and 12th grade students. 10th and 11th graders attend AM for PLAN and ACT testing.

### April 25

No school for 10th and 11th grade students. 9th and 12th graders attend AM only.

### May 28

Memorial Day – No classes, offices closed.

### May 31

Last day of school for elementary and middle students.

### June 1

Last day for high school students.

## The DMPS Community Report APRIL 2012 | Vol. 4 No. 4

The *DMPS Community Report* is now published every other month by the office of Community Relations.

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### 2011-2012 Board of Directors

Teree Caldwell-Johnson, Chair  
Dick Murphy, Vice Chair  
Connie Boesen  
Cindy Elsbernd  
Bill Howard  
Joe Jongewaard  
Pat Sweeney

## More DMPS News and Information Available Online and On Air

Des Moines Public Schools is the largest provider of public education in Iowa, which means one newsletter alone cannot provide all of the information or share all of the stories about everything taking place in your school district. More news and information is always available online and on air.

### ONLINE

You can find information on schools, news stories, data, contacts, and more on the DMPS web site at [www.dmschools.org](http://www.dmschools.org) and at [facebook.com/dmschools](https://www.facebook.com/dmschools) and [twitter.com/dmschools](https://twitter.com/dmschools).

### ON THE AIR

Tune in to **DMPS-TV on Mediacom Cable channels 85 and 97-3** at any time to see stories about programs and events from throughout the school district. If you do not subscribe to cable television, you can still view stories online at [www.dmschools.org](http://www.dmschools.org). And if you're in the mood for interesting talk and music, tune into Des Moines Public Schools' own radio station - **KDPS 88.1** - where your hosts are students from Central Campus and GrandView University.

The Des Moines Independent Community School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact the district's Equity Coordinator Patricia Lantz, General Counsel, 901 Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50309; phone: 515.242.7837; email: [patricia.lantz@dmschools.org](mailto:patricia.lantz@dmschools.org).