

To: Dansville School Board Members

From: Andy Cox

Date: October 22, 2019

Re: DES update

- The 44th year of 5th grade camp just wrapped up last week from Mystic Lake Campground. A huge thank you to the camp staff for their incredible investment into this Dansville legacy!
- A 4th grade parent meeting was held Monday, October 7th to discuss details related to the end of year Mackinac trip. At the conclusion of the Mackinac meeting parents were invited to visit each of the 4th grade classrooms where Ms. Main, and Mrs. Henderson presented information about classroom procedures, routines, and a deeper look at the 4th grade curriculum. This was well attended and well received.
- Parent Literacy Engagement Nights will be making a return this year. This is a parent enrichment/engagement program designed to give them practical activities and strategies to do at home with their children related to literacy skills. The target audience for this program is parents of Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st grade. Our first meeting is Tuesday, November 12th.
- Teachers have completed the collection of fall screening data in FAST Bridge and Spring Math. This information will now guide instructional decisions including small group formations for targeted instruction to the groups' specific needs. This information also guides decisions on which K-3 students need an Individualized Reading Intervention Plan (IRIP). This is a major piece of the Read by Grade 3 Law.
- The elementary PTO has been very active this year in coming up with new ways to engage families. Our first Read-In Night was held October 16th with about 40 people in attendance. This was a fun night of kids simply reading books with their parents, stuffed animals, pillows and blankets. Lynn Harper from the local library also visited and read a Halloween story to the group. Also, coming up this Saturday, is our first ever PTO Halloween Family Dance. I'm looking forward to this event to give the students another reason to wear their costumes and get together to have some "spooky" fun. There is a \$10 cost per family.
- School wide Halloween parties/parade will take place on Thursday, October 31. The parade route will wind throughout the MS building and main elementary hall.
- Fall parent-teacher conferences will be coming up on Nov. 6 & 7 from 4:00-7:00 both nights.
- The PTO Craft Show is coming up on Nov. 23rd.
- The elementary was awarded a Dollar General Grant for \$2000 to help purchase additional books for classroom library collections. Data tracking involved with this grant includes taking student attitude surveys about reading before and after the new books are implemented into the classrooms. Reading fluency data will also be

examined. The desired outcome is that students' reading interest, engagement levels and performance will increase with a focused effort of providing more resources and time. Some teachers have even began the practice of students taking books with them to read in the hallways as they wait to transition for switch classes and/or specials realizing that precious minutes can be recouped for reading every day.