

KINDLE'S KORNER

by

Dr. Wayne Kindle, Superintendent

Yankton School District

Governor Dugaard Speaking at YHS

Governor Dugaard will be speaking at the YHS Theater on December 19 beginning at 5:30. The Governor will discuss Workforce Development, Apprenticeship Program, Build Dakota Scholarship, and promoting the YSD Internship Program.

Parents, students, business owners/leaders, and community members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Following the Governor's event beginning at 6:00 the YSD will host local businesses in the YHS Commons who are currently involved in the Internship Program and those interested in becoming part of the Internship Program.

We want to extend an invitation to any business interested in setting up a display in the commons and/or interest in learning more about participating in the Internship Program to please contact Yankton High School. You may contact Yankton High School at 665-2073.

Sound the Alarm

I was recently asked along with some others in the community if we would volunteer time to work with the Red Cross and our local Fire Department to install Smoke/Fire Alarms in Yankton. The project was called Sound the Alarm. The YSD also partnered in another way using our Connect 5 to get the word out to parents who signed up for the free alarms.

This was an amazing experience getting out into several homes in Yankton. It was a reminder to me about the various needs of our community and knowing that this could save lives of adults and children.

I would encourage folks to consider getting involved if asked. It was committing an evening of time and one of the best things I have been part of in the community. It was also a reminder to me of the wonderful acts of kindness our local Red Cross volunteers and members of our local Yankton Fire Department do for our community.

Below are the Yankton statistics reported by Jennifer Ross, American Red Cross:

We had 115 appointments at the start of the night.

We were able to get into 86 homes.

We installed 298 alarms.

We made homes safer for 256 people:

- 96 were 17 years old or younger.
- 45 were 65 years old or older.
- 13 had a functional access need or disability
- 16 were military members or family members

We found 188 pre-existing alarms – 99 of those were working. Of the 86 homes we visited, 53 had no working smoke alarms.

The Wonderful Gift of Giving

Most folks don't know Jon Anderson. He is a Yankton native and a book hero to many students in the Yankton School District. Jon is also a published author now living in New York City.

I asked Kathleen Bergeson who is our Librarian at Stewart Elementary School to put together some facts about Jon to share with our community. Jon has been an outstanding supporter of the Yankton School District and we are grateful to him.

During the 2011-12 school year Kathleen Bergeson, was working in the Resource Room when she received an unexpected call from Jon Anderson. They had met and worked together during Anderson's author visit when his book, The Extraordinary Adventures of Ordinary Boy, was on the South Dakota Prairie Pasque list. As President of Children's Books at Simon and Schuster, he had heard about the district's need for library books and wanted to do something to help.

He offered to send Bergeson some books he had in his office. But that was just the start of his incredible generosity and support for his hometown. Since that first shipment of books, Anderson has continued to regularly send huge shipments of brand-new books for all of the YSD libraries. The latest shipment of books arrived on a pallet. That's a lot of books!

Through the years these books have added up to somewhere in the range of about 15,000 – 17,500 books. The retail value of those books would be roughly \$250,000. The numbers are truly staggering, but the greater value is shown in what those books have brought to our readers. Our students have access to new picture books, readers, chapter books, series, nonfiction and award-winners far beyond what our budgets can provide. New additions to our libraries are anticipated with excitement. Our students know that someone from Yankton has succeeded in his career in NYC, and he cares about them and sends them all these wonderful books. This gift is priceless! We are so thankful for Jon's amazing, ongoing generosity to our school libraries!

YMS Robotics

The Robotics class is one of the newly added elective classes at YMS for the 2017-2018 school year. The class incorporates the VEX IQ software and curriculum, which is a robotics platform designed to transform STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) learning for students. The class is task based, as students are responsible for all phases of their learning including; concept development, design, construction, and testing of their completed projects.

The benefits of the class are twofold, not only are students challenged academically with the integration of math and science, but students are also challenged with real world problems that require thought and effort to troubleshoot a variety of problems. The class also builds and reinforces skills that will be valuable to students as future learners and employees as they learn to read a manual, follow detailed instructions, problem solve, and work with partners in a group.

What has made this class such a success is to see every level of learner challenged, engaged, and enjoying the learning process. The Robotics class has been a great addition to the YMS course handbook, serving as an extension of content area classes and skills in a fun and challenging learning environment.

Presentations

As Superintendent, I would be happy to visit with you personally or speak to your group/organization. I am also willing to host your group at our Administration Building or one of our school buildings. I would also come to your facility or meeting place.

As Superintendent, I have spoken to several groups through-out our community and have hosted groups at our Administration Building. Please feel free to contact me at 665-3998 to arrange a time to visit. I can also be contacted using my email at wkindle@ysd.k12.sd.us

Let's make it a great year in the YSD!

Henry Ford stated, **“Coming together is a beginning. Staying together is a process. Working together is a success.”**