



News + Updates

From

THE COUGAR CREW

Damiansville Elementary

Monthly Newsletter 2024-2025

Cougar Crew Family

Greetings Cougar Families!



It is hard to believe we are more than half way through the 2024-2025 school year. We have some wonderful events coming up: 100th Day of School, Trivia Night (sponsored by our PTO), Souper Bowl, and we will be kicking off Heart Heroes for the American Heart Association.

This past month our school was "In the Spotlight" for the Neighbors of Clinton County Magazine. I have included the article at the bottom of this newsletter. Thank you parents/guardians for sharing your wonderful students with us every day. We are lucky to have these wonderful students at our school. Our DGS staff and I are also so very thankful for the partnership we have with our students, parents, guardians, and the school. It is because of this partnership and our ability to work together as a team that makes students successful at Damiansville Elementary.

Go Cougars!

Mrs. Beer

February: Word of the Month -- Patience

February allows us to focus on being **patient**. A patient person is able to wait calmly in the face of frustration or adversity. Research has shown that a person who practices patience supports his/her own mental health, strengthens connections with others and helps reach goals at a faster rate. This month at Damiansville Elementary we will be focusing on patience, the ability to wait for something without getting upset and maintaining a positive attitude.

Event Information

Souper Bowl Competition

The STUCO is proud to announce the Cougar "Souper Bowl" collection! STUCO is looking to collect non-perishable food items in honor of the "Souper Bowl." They will be collecting all of your generous donations starting *Monday, February 3rd and will continue accepting through Friday, February 7th*. Students may bring in any non-perishable food items to be placed in the "Souper Bowl" container of your favorite Souper Bowl contender... the Kansas City Chiefs or the Philadelphia Eagles! Let's have a fun, healthy competition to support Coping for Life + families in need!

When?

Monday, Feb 3, 2025, 08:00 AM

Where?

Damiansville Elementary School

February Cougar Events

2/3/25- 100th Day of School

2/6/25- Heart Heroes Kickoff

2/12/25 - Quarter 3 Midterm

2/28/25- Mexican Fish Fry (Gym)

2/14/25- No School (Teacher Institute)

2/14/25- Happy Valentine's Day

2/17/25- President's Day (No School)

2/18/25- School Board Meeting (7PM)

2/21/25- 8th Grade KC (Career Conf.)

2/28/25 - Cougar Crew Assembly

Cougar Crew Family Wellness : Loving-Kindness

Here are some tips on cultivating loving-kindness towards others as we enter the month of February + celebrate Valentine's Day. Find a quiet and comfortable place where you can breathe undisturbed for a few minutes. Take a few deep breaths and bring to mind someone you love deeply. Focus on the feeling of love and warmth that arises in your heart. Repeat the following phrases to yourself, a loved one, a neutral person, a difficult person and all beings: *May you be happy, May you be healthy, May you be safe, May you live with ease*. Remember that cultivating loving-kindness toward others takes practice. Be patient and approach this idea with an open mind and a curious mind. This practice will lead to patience and understanding as you cultivate a loving-kindness toward yourself and others.



Home of the DGS Cougars



Wellness + School Policy

- With the recent spike in Influenza A, strep throat, & pneumonia cases, we want to remind everyone to stay vigilant. Key symptoms to watch for include fever, sore throat, and body aches/chills. Please monitor your child closely, and if they show any of these signs, we encourage you to keep them home and consult a healthcare provider. To help prevent the spread, this is also a good time to wash coats, hats, gloves, and other items your child may have worn.
- Students who have had a fever over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, unless advised differently by the CDC or IDPH, in the past 24 hours should remain at home until they are fever-free for 24 hours without medication. A child with a fever may be contagious and should remain at home.
- Students who have been vomiting or have had contagious (viral or bacterial) diarrhea must remain home until they are 24 hours without an episode.

Damiansville PTO

- **THIS MONTH:** Trivia Night - Friday, Feb. 21st
 - **Theme:** Famous Families
 - Contact Melinda Voss to Sign Up (618-521-3192)
- If you would like to contribute a donation to the Trivia Night Silent Auction or find out more about becoming a sponsor visit please visit the PTO Facebook page or email: melinda.voss214@yahoo.com.

School Calendar Updates

Calendar Updates (Due to 5 Snow Days)..

3rd Quarter Updates

Midterm Quarter 3- February 12th
End of Quarter 3- March 24th
* Report Cards Home- March 28th

4th Quarter Updates

Midterm Quarter 4- April 30th
End of Quarter 4 - May 28th
*Report Cards Home- May 28th

Other Updates:

Illinois State Testing (Grades 3-8) - April 7-14
Illinois Science Testing (Grades 5+8) - April 1-3
*Please avoid appointments/travel on these dates
8th Grade Graduation - Wednesday, May 21st



THEME: FRIDAYS @ DGS

Friday

February 7th

"Souper Bowl"

Celebration

Jersey Day



Thursday

February 13th

peace + love day

Wear tie-dye



Friday

February 21st

National Love Your Pet

Day - Wear an Animal

Shirt



Friday

February 28th

Cougar Crew Friday

Wear Cougar Gear



STUCO Valentine Dress Up Week

2/10/25: love the decades

2/11/25: dress to impress

2/12/25: pink + red day

2/13/25: peace + love day (tiedye)

#DGSPROUD



Happy Valentine's Day





The heart of Damiansville Elementary; our dedicated and talented faculty.

Amanda Beer is a dedicated educator currently in her second year as principal at Damiansville Elementary. With a strong focus on fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment, Amanda strives to create a space where students, teachers, and families can thrive and excel. Her commitment to building strong relationships and promoting a sense of community is evident in her role as a leader with an excellent team at DGS!



a note from...
OUR SCHOOL LEADERS

By Amanda Beer, Principal;
and Kent Hawley, Interim Superintendent

"Small School: Big Goals." That's who we are at Damiansville Elementary School. With just 102 students in grades K-8, our small class sizes allow for in-depth, individualized instruction. However, being small doesn't stop us from dreaming BIG! Our goal is to make DGS the school everyone wants their children to attend. What are we doing to achieve that goal? Creating a culture that "Envisions Excellence." We strive for and expect excellence in academics, behavior, and service.

Academically, we are increasing rigor in the classroom, and that has paid off with an Exemplary designation from the Illinois State Board of Education for two of the past three years, putting DGS in the top 10% of all schools in the state. We review our curriculum so our students get the depth and breadth of knowledge they need. We incorporated standards-based grading in the



Friendship, fun and fabulous fashion. Students and faculty support "Well-Dressed Wednesdays" and wear Cougar gear!

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Together, we make a difference! Our Student Council and Pre-K through Grade 4 students pictured with gifts gathered from the entire school for our Adopt-A-Family event during the holidays.

lower grades to ensure our students are keeping pace and focusing on the skills and knowledge needed at each grade level. We also provide professional development for our staff so they have even more "tools in their toolbox" to help kids learn. Plus, they really know our kids!

Further, we strengthened our Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) program to teach students the skills needed to survive and thrive in school and in the community. Our students belong to their own Cougar Crews - groups of 5-6 students from all grade levels who interact on a regular basis for games, contests, and activities. Our older students learn to lead with patience, and our younger students develop positive relationships with their elders. Each month, our Cougar Crews focus on an empowering word - words like respect, determination, kindness, and caring. After living that word for a month, our final Friday of the month is a Cougar Crew Day filled with activities and games that reinforce that word.

At Damiansville Elementary, we expect our students to learn service—both to their school and the greater community. We believe that by serving others, we improve ourselves, and our students have opportunities to do both. In the past year and a half, our students and families have raised money for Adopt-A-Family during the holidays, collected funds through a penny war for a family in need, carried out our morning announcements each day, and assisted with daily jobs such as raising the flag and helping in the lunchroom.


We have been successful because we have three key components in place: a staff that is committed to improved student learning, a Board that is looking to the future, and a community—especially a fantastic PTO—that supports our efforts. Staff, Board, and community have laid a rock-solid foundation at Damiansville Elementary School on which we continue to "Envision Excellence" and build our small school to achieve big goals!



Our young leaders inspire their peers through character education.



Cougar Crew Collaboration! Our DGS students and teachers are hard at work, teaming up with their crewmates.




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Damiansville Elementary #62

www.dville62.com - #EnvisionExcellence - Small School BIG Goals