



Updates from President Holly

For many of us, we have just wrapped up the 1st quarter of school and are pushing through the second quarter! The time will fly by as we prepare for the holidays and try to keep our students and selves focused to finish the semester strong. I want to thank those of you who came to the October meeting. We had such a good time at our auction where many laughs, amazing gifts, and yummy food were had. We raised much-needed money for our chapter and had a great time.

There is a change of plans for our next meeting. We originally had planned to use our Saturday, November 12th meeting to invite potential new members. However, we recently learned that the room at Houlihan's is no longer available to use that day, and I haven't heard from any of our members about bringing along any prospective members. We have decided that we will wait to invite potential new members to our December meeting when we have our ornament exchange. We will still plan to get together on **November 12th**, but we will meet at **Steamwhistle Coffee Shop in Crown Point at 9:30 am**. I hope to see more of our current members at the November meeting so we can spend some time sharing happenings and upcoming events.

I do have some exciting news to share about the School Town of Munster and James B. Eads Elementary School in particular. When I moved to Northwest Indiana, I had the privilege to work at this school. I was a 3rd-grade and 5th-grade teacher for the last 5 years before accepting my new position as an instructional coach for the corporation. One of the elementary schools, James B. Eads, was recently named a Blue Ribbon School and the principal, Linda Bevil, was named as only 1 of 9 principals in the United States to be awarded the Terrel H. Bell Award for Outstanding Leadership by the Blue Ribbon Committee. The Terrel H. Bell Award recognizes outstanding school leaders and the vital role they play in guiding students and schools to excellence, frequently under challenging circumstances. We are extremely proud of Mrs. Bevil and know this recognition is well deserved. The school and district have been celebrating these 2 major accomplishments for the last month with celebrations for our students, staff, and families. The celebration will wrap up when Mrs. Bevil and a first-grade teacher, Mrs. Torabi will travel to Washington DC in November to accept the awards.



In closing, I want to recognize our members who were and/or are continuing to be involved in education. We are in this profession for the love of our students, families, and communities. Our DKG community is a special group. I would love for our group to grow in the upcoming months. In saying that let's be ready to come to our November 12th meeting to exchange our joys, ideas, and thoughts on how to become stronger in our organization. We need that involvement monthly to make this happen. I look forward to seeing each and every member and to change things up a little we will be keeping this as a **Saturday meeting but will meet at Steamwhistle in Crown Point in their back room at 9:30 am** to sip coffee, chat, and maybe have a little treat.

Meeting DKG Alpha Omega Chapter Notes from Thursday, October 13, 2022

Submitted by Carol Borowski

Holly called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. We met in the Branches Room of the Methodist Church in Crown Point. She stated that school for her has gotten better this year although there is some COVID. She thanked Barb Gillan for arranging this alternate room for our meeting. As a "Get to Know You" activity, she asked each of us to state a best and a worst event or activity of this week. Each of us enjoyed this activity and the interesting discussions that followed. This also led to discussions about various schools and administrators and requirements of teachers these days

Treasury report: Becky stated that after state and international financial requirements, we have \$1,027.18 and the grant-in-aid has \$916.00. Evelyn asked how much is in the scholarship fund for our members to apply for. Becky stated since the transfer of treasury to her and to a new bank, she is working on that answer. We have 16 paid members, while last year we had 23.

Holly said from state and the international conference in July, she has learned that many groups still have Zoom meetings which enable more people to attend a meeting. Discussion followed that perhaps we should consider this.

Unfinished Business: A service project for helping Mickey Prowse with Coats for Kids and Families was discussed. Alpha Omega members could help on 3 different Saturdays in November for the handouts of coats. These will take place in River Forest School, Merrillville, and the Impact Church in Merrillville. There may be one in January at Arc sponsored by Crown Point Methodist Church. Also, Mickey stated volunteers are needed to help with washing of coats at the Lady Bug Laundromat. The Coats for Kids and Families also gives to adults; and around 1,200 coats are usually given away each year. Each coat is cleaned and then put in the right stack by size. Volunteers are needed for washing, sorting, mending, and distributing these coats. "Whatever you want to be involved in is gratefully accepted," said Mickey.

On Saturday, November 12th, we have a meeting at Houlihan's Restaurant in Schererville at which we will greet prospective members and explain the DKG International Society and how our chapter functions within that. Holly will send an email to members encouraging each to give her the names of prospective members.

Holly stated the Council meets on November 19th. The Janet O'Neal Seminar on November 5th is in Columbia City. "Connecting the Brain for Learning" is the topic. Several members said they have heard this lady before, and she is very good.

Becky informed us that the animal rescue organization she belongs to collects donations all during November for both cats and dogs. Items such as: Friskies wet dog food, crates, old towels, blankets, sheets, collars, treats, toys, puppy food are all used for rescue animals as well as donations to cover cost of medical needs. The Two by Two Rescue of Merrillville sometimes rescues birds and rabbits. They do have a website if you are interested in learning more — <https://www.2x2rescue.org/>

Holly went through the requirements for the Gold Key Award by the State Organization of DKG. As she did so, we discussed what we have already done to receive points and what we could work on to receive more points. However, attendance at state or international conferences or conventions for members other than state officers, state chairmen or chapter presidents is required. The next State Convention is April 28-30, 2023 in Evansville, IN and the International Convention is July 11-16 in Detroit, MI. Holly encouraged us each to consider attending since we gain more from our DKG membership if we do. Moreover, we would need to plan and have an orientation meeting for new members.

New Business: Carol Herzog, as stated in the current chapter newsletter, is now the new Northeast Regional Director for DKG International. A reminder was given to us about the November 5th Janet O'Neal Seminar. Vicky Watkins has moved to Elkart, IN to be closer to family.



Becky Became Our Auctioneer for the Night!

Evelyn moved that having no further business, we adjourn. It was 7:25 pm. We then enjoyed our potluck dinner and then Becky became the auctioneer of the beautifully wrapped pound items. We raised \$182.00 this night with 7 people in attendance.

Endless Opportunities in Extracurricular Clubs

By Melissa Watroba

Robert A. Taft Middle School is a fantastic school for clubs for students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade. I am blessed to have been approved to run three clubs at our school that invite, welcome, and embrace all students. The first club that I co-sponsor with Jennifer Pugh is The Builders Club. The Builders Club is based on the premise of encouraging and teaching children to have a servant's heart, to think outside of themselves, and to contribute to their community in a positive way that encourages growth and leadership capabilities. At a time where children are very self-aware and discovering who they are as individuals, the Builders Club provides an excellent opportunity for students to think about and help others, to volunteer, and to discover that they can make a difference in the world by actions big or small.



Last Christmas, Builders Club Made Ornaments for Residents in Colonial Nursing Home

The second club that I sponsor is the Coffee and Chatter Club. This started off as a fun club suggested by a student through our mutual love of Starbucks Coffee! The Coffee and Chatter Club allows children to come to school every other Friday, before school, and share their love of all things caffeinated including hot teas, hot chocolates, and (of course) our favorite, hot coffee. The exciting thing behind the Coffee and Chatter Club is that it welcomes all students no matter who they are, what grade they're in, or in what social situation they may find themselves. Our club is extremely inclusive and finds all varieties and exceptionalities and wonders of children coming together in the simple love of a hot drink sharing thoughts and conversations that may normally not occur in the chaotic halls and classrooms of a middle school.



HP Book Club Receives a Visit from Some of the CPHS Puffs Cast and Crew

The final club that I sponsor at Robert A. Taft Middle School is the Harry Potter Book Club. The Harry Potter Book Club is, at its base, a club to celebrate the enjoyment of one of the most popular book series ever created. The Harry Potter series is absolutely perfect for middle school students because it allows them, in a safe way, to read and connect to a boy who, like them, is becoming self-aware; going through emotional strife; coming from an abusive background; and eventually triumphing over everything in order to save his friends, his community, and the world. Not only do we enjoy reading books from the series, we also watch the movies and travel to the movie theaters to watch any new premieres that are released. We also play HP Kahoots, do scavenger hunts, have game

days, and create artistic masterpieces to display to other students to encourage their exploration of Harry Potter and his unique emotional life situation.

Sponsoring these clubs and embracing all of the quiriness and fun of my middle school kiddos brings me such joy. Hopefully, their middle school years will be ones of laughter and memories instead of drama and bullying experiences.

Delta Data is produced for the purpose of sharing information within chapter membership.

"The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education."

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A Successful Season in Cross Country

By Jennifer Pugh



8th Grade Girls Ready to Start Final MS Race

Taft's Cross Country team was pretty large this year — we had 135 student athletes in our program! We started practicing the first week of August, and we recently finished our season in mid-October with the Lake-Porter Conferences for our teams. We had many wins this season and many great performances by our MS athletes! Some of the highlights of our season included bringing home **four** out of the six 1st place trophies from the Willowcreek Invite; **both** 2nd place plaques from the 40th annual Culver Academies Cross Country Invitational (one for our boys' team and one for our girls' team); and **three** of the six first place trophies from the conference championship meets!

Another highlight from this past season that seemed to go somewhat viral on social media was a really great display of sportsmanship. The last runner of the day was finishing his race and was the only athlete left out on the course. Our Taft Girls noticed that he was still running, so they all banded together to encourage him and started running alongside him. Before we knew it, the majority of all the runners left from every team joined in to run with him and cheer him on to finish his race. It was a proud coaching moment, for sure!



Many Kids Banded Together to Support the Last Runner!



CPHS Girls Advanced to the State Meet in Terre Haute

It certainly has been an exciting time to be a Crown Point Cross Country Bulldog!! Not only did Taft have a very successful season, but so did our CPHS girls. It has been a privilege to coach at the MS level and to see our runners continue running when they get to HS. This season the CPHS girls advanced to state! This final meet is held each year at the LaVern Gibson Course in Terre Haute. Our CPHS girls ended up placing 24th in the state of Indiana overall this year—pretty cool, huh? As a former coach for many of the girls on the HS roster, I am very proud of all of their efforts and teamwork shown this season. Congrats, CPXC Lady Bulldogs!!

As I pause to reflect on completing my 5th season as a cross country coach at Taft, I am humbled to have coached and encouraged so many wonderful student athletes ... two of which include my own children, Natalee and Jackson. I will always look back on my time as a cross country coach at Taft Middle School with great fondness and awesome memories!



Jackson, Jennifer, and Natalee

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS:

November 12th—Northwest Council Meeting in Rensselaer

November 12th at 9:30 Alpha Omega Chapter Meeting—Steamwhistle Coffee Roasters (924 S. Court St, Crown Point)

December Alpha Omega Chapter Meeting (DATE AND LOCATION TO BE FINALIZED AT NOVEMBER 12TH MEETING) At this meeting we will invite prospective new members to participate and have our ornament exchange