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# Thrower Gives Inspirational Message at D.A.R.E. Graduation

NOVEMBER 20TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Thrower Gives Inspirational Message at D.A.R.E. Graduation

**Dexter, Missouri** - Dexter High School senior Lauren Thrower presented an inspirational message about how drugs affect families to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students during the 2015 Dexter Central Elementary D.A.R.E. Graduation Ceremony held at the Bearcat Event Center.

Holding back tears she spoke about her brother's addiction and how the D.A.R.E. Program influenced her life while dealing with a family member who was in and out of rehab. She was happy to tell the audience he is now drug free and working full time in the family owned business, Dexter Queen.

"I am extremely proud of my brother," Lauren told the crowd. "I see that it is a daily struggle for him and for anyone who is addicted to drugs or alcohol."

Lauren is an inspiration to us all, not only with her beautiful words of inspiration, but her talent far exceeds that of a high school student. She is a strong young lady who warmed the hearts of everyone in attendance with her singing the song "Hero" for students, teachers, parents, special guests and this reporter! She brought tears to many.

Thank you Lauren for all that you do for this community and for being such a good role model to students.

</images/2015 Images/Lauren and Lori.jpg>

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## We Honor the Brave, A Tribute to Veterans

NOVEMBER 18TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

### We Honor the Brave, A Tribute to Veterans

**Dexter, Missouri** - On Thursday, November 12, 2015 the Southwest Elementary School 2nd Grade students held a Fall Musical in honor of veterans. Each dressed in red, white, and blue and presented a tribute to local veterans.

Under the direction of Mr. James Eldreth, the students sang a medley of songs including *American, Land of the Free, Yankee Doodle, The Open Sea, On Land, on Sea, and in the Air, Flying, and Veterans Day Rap*.

The Boy Scouts presented the Colors and students entered the gym with an instrumental piece "Semper Paratus", the U.S. Coast Guard Song.

For the grand Finale the students performed America, Land of the Free. Announcer Jonas Shoemaker yelled the names of each song: "The United States Coast Guard", "The United States Army", "The United States Navy", "The United States Marines", and the "United

States Air Force with solos by Lauren Sindle "The Caissons Go Rolling Along", Hailey Merrick "Anchors Aweigh", and Klaire Essner "Marines' Hymn."

Taps was played at the end of the performance by trumpeters James Eldreth and Adam Clark.

After Taps the children marched out of the gym to an instrumental piece "Off We Go Into the Wild Blue Yonder", the U.S. Air Force Song.

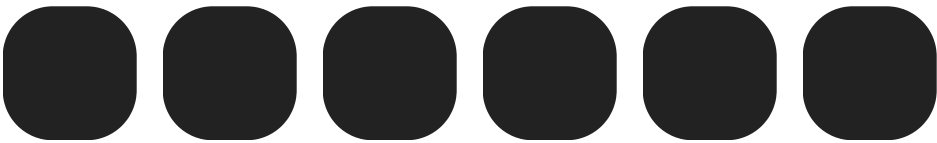
What a great celebration and the students learned much about patriotism and veterans during their rehearsals for the big show.

If you would like a video of the "We Honor the Brave" musical contact Mr. Eldreth by November 20th at Southwest Elementary. They are only \$10 and all proceeds go to purchase instruments and materials for the Southwest music classroom.

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# DHS to Present Shrek The Musical JR

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NOVEMBER 17TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

## DHS to Present Shrek The Musical JR

**Dexter, Missouri** -It's a "big bright beautiful world" for everyone's favorite ogre in ***Shrek The Musical JR.***, based on the Oscar-winning DreamWorks Animation film. Nasty will be nice and Dexter will be ogre-the-moon when Dexter High School students present their production of ***Shrek The Musical JR*** beginning November 19, 2015, it was announced on by Freddie Gershon, CEO of Music Theatre International (MTI).

The family-friendly musical comedy follows the adventures of an ogre named Shrek who sets off on a quest to save a princess from a dragon. However, it turns out that in order to ultimately succeed, Shrek must battle an even bigger obstacle: learning how to believe in himself and open his heart to others.

"Shrek's unique story of discovery encourages each of us to examine our prejudices, review what we believe to be our limitations and work to better understand ourselves and others. The actors and crew in this production have embarked on a similar journey, as students and teachers with many different interests have learned more about themselves and each other while collaborating towards the common goal of presenting this musical," says Gershon.

Dexter High School will present *Shrek The Musical JR* on November 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and November 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Dexter High School Auditorium.

*Shrek The Musical JR* follows an ogre named Shrek who has learned the hard way that "people hate the things they cannot understand." For many years he has protected himself from the hurtful actions of those who are scared of him by living as a recluse in a cozy cesspit. One day, his peaceful swamp is disturbed by new tenants: fairytale misfits – including Pinocchio, the Ugly duckling, the Wicket Witch, Peter Pan, the Three Little Pigs, and the Big Bad Wolf – have been banished there by the villainous Lord Farquaad. In order to gain back his land, Shrek makes a deal with Farquaad to rescue the feisty princess Fiona from a tower guarded by a fierce dragon. Setting off with his faithful companion, Donkey, Shrek begins the journey of a lifetime filled with adventure, romance, and hilarity.

Tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students and may be purchased at the door. For more information, please email Jamie Sepulvado at [jamie2@dexter.k12.mo.us](mailto:jamie2@dexter.k12.mo.us) or Julie Rybolt at [jrybolt@dexter.k12.mo.us](mailto:jrybolt@dexter.k12.mo.us).

*Shrek The Musical JR* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). They are one of the world's leading theatrical licensing agencies, granting schools as well as amateur and professional theaters from around the world the rights to perform the largest selection of great musicals from Broadway and beyond.

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## Karis Kennedy Earns Positive Office Referral

NOVEMBER 16TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Karis Kennedy Earns Positive Office Referral

**Dexter, Missouri** - Southwest Elementary honors Karis Kennedy with the Positive Office

Referral certificate.

This award is presented to students who consistently show the 3 R's RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, and READY TO LEARN at Southwest Elementary in Dexter.

Karis was nominated by her second grade teacher Mrs. LeeAnn Nelson. She also received a certificate, a golden loop and a free taco from Taco Bell.

Mrs. Nelson says, "Karis is always showing the 3Rs every where she goes."

Karis is the daughter of Chase and Mauri Kennedy.

Congratulations Karis!

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## Second Graders Hold Coin Drive for Veterans

NOVEMBER 16TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Second Graders Hold Coin Drive for Veterans

**Dexter, Missouri** - Mrs. Kruse encouraged second grade students at Southwest Elementary in Dexter to participate in a Coin Drive for Veterans.

Mike Williams, pastor of the First Christian Church, came to the school and gave a presentation on Thursday, October 30th. Mr. Williams is a Senior Protestant Chaplain of the 932 Airlift Wing at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois.

He spoke with the students about his job, what it meant to be a Veterans and let them know that they were not too young to get involved in a service project.

For one week, students were encouraged to bring coins to school as part of a special contest with all monies raised to go to the Missouri State Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield. As an incentive, the winning classroom was promised a surprise pizza party by the Ladies Auxiliary - American Legion Post #59.

A very special thank you went out to Sue Grobe who took all the coins to a machine counter, otherwise they might still be counting those pennies, nickels, and dimes.

The total amount raised was \$654.36. The winning classroom was Mrs. LeeAnn Nelson's room with a total amount raised of \$188.66.

The students voted this year to support the Bloomfield Assistance League of the Missouri Veterans Cemetery, which helps to support the Missouri Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield.

Presenting the check at the Veterans Days Ceremony held in the Bearcat Event Center on Wednesday, November 11, 2015 was Mrs. Nelson and two students from her classroom, Eli Scott and Karis Kennedy. World War II Veteran, Mr. Windy Richmond, representing the Bloomfield Assistance League of the Missouri Veterans Cemetery received the check on behalf of the Bloomfield Veterans Cemetery.

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