

# Denfeld Alumni News

WINTER 2013 ISSUE: 8

## DENFELD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MISSION:

To sustain alumni relations and celebrate the spirit of Denfeld High School and Western Duluth.

## DENFELD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION VISION:

To foster and sustain interest, support, and involvement in school and community affairs by coordinating projects and events that celebrate Denfeld High School's rich history.

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## Then and Now

For those of you who graduated in the 50's or 60's, have you wondered what a typical day is like at Denfeld now and vice versa? In 1966 there were three grades (about 1500 kids) versus four now. Some kids walked to school, some were driven, and some took the bus; times haven't changed much right? The day consisted of six class hours, with the first hour starting at 8:10, followed by homeroom. During this time you could do homework, visit a teacher, or attend club or sports meetings. Now zero hour starts at the same time, which is an optional hour that students can choose to take, and first hour starts at 9:05.

In the 1950's, sophomores and juniors typically had two days of PE per week. There was only one music class allowed for any student so you couldn't be in band and choir. One unusual rule was that cheerleaders couldn't be in the choir. There was an opinion that leading cheers ruined a woman's voice. Because of the proximity to Diamond Tool, Clyde Iron, and the US Steel plant, some kids were tracked into shop classes that taught job preparatory skills for these crafts called the Smith-Hughes program. Now there is something called College In The Schools (CITS); you can receive college credit as well as high school credit for these classes, including sociology, physics, or economics.

During classes now, you will see every teacher using a smart board, instead of a chalk board. When Denfeld was remodeled all of the chalk boards were replaced with white boards and smart boards. In between classes now you will see many students carrying their backpacks around to all of their classes without going to lockers. During classes you might run into a "hall sweep". (For interested viewers there's a video on you tube that exec board made for an assembly). There were too many students roaming the halls during classes and there were too many tardies so staff decided to "sweep" the halls. The teachers have to shut and lock their doors at the bell and there are about one or two faculty members in each hallway and in the commons. If you are caught in the hall after a bell rings, your name is written down. If your name is written down twice, you get detention and an escort to your class.

All grades can leave for lunch now, but many eat in the commons with friends. There are a few choices for lunch including the sub sandwiches line, the pizza line, the cheeseburgers or something chicken line, and the main line which switches every day. In the 1950's and 60's there were 3 lunch periods A, B, and C, and it was a closed campus, but apparently kids would sneak out. The least favorite lunch period was B because the split class was four minutes longer. In the 1950's, the cafeteria was segregated with boys eating over in the right wing and girls straight ahead (in old cafeteria). The teachers' lunch table was at the front of the boys' side with men and women eating at the same table. During this time, Principal G. Dell Daedo was known to finish his lunch every day with a bag of popcorn which he ate with a spoon.

At the end of a school day *now*, you might find a group of students gathering in the commons area, at a "senior table" telling of the day's latest gossip. *Back then*, even though there weren't many cars, you may have seen quite a few "hot-rods peeling out" after school. A typical day at Denfeld then and now may have started and ended at similar times, but many feel that the day's content has drastically changed. Even so- it is apparent that Denfeld's tradition ran true in the 50's and 60's and continues to do so now.

*A special thanks to Richard Swanson (class of 1966) and Dick Skogg (class of . . .)for digging up some fond memories and to Megan Mrkonjich and Felicia Johnson (class of 2013) for sharing their current experiences.*

## Wine and Beer Tasting Event

Join us for our first Wine and Beer tasting event. As profits will go to the Denfeld Alumni Association. We use our donated funds for the Hall of Fame, School Tours, and the Newsletter. Please come out on March 15 from 6pm to 9pm and Mr. D's in West Duluth and have fun and show your Maroon and Gold Spirit.



Friday, March 15, 2013, 6-9 p.m. Join us as we raise money for the Denfeld Alumni Association, with our first Wine and Beer tasting event!

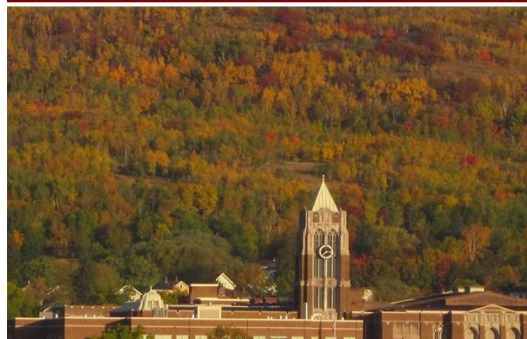
## Denfeld Alumni Association



Tickets are \$15.00 in advance and \$20.00 at the door. Advance tickets may be purchased at Super One Liquors or from any Alumni Board Member.



View of new addition of school from Grand Ave. & 44th Ave W.



- Friday, March 15, 2013 at Mr. D's from 6 to 9 p.m.
- Enjoy samplings from our local breweries
- Enjoy wine from many distributors
- Free Appetizers!



## Upcoming Reunions

2003 - 10 year reunion on Sat, July 15, 2013 at Clyde Iron Works. Ticket Information and Purchasing: <http://www.zapevent.com/listactivities.aspx?eventid=3344>. Guided tour of Denfeld at 3:00pm. Hors d'oeuvres, Drinks and Celebration at 7:30pm. Questions, DHS03reunion@gmail.com

1993 - 20 year reunion on July 20, 2013 at Clyde Iron Works. Questions? Contact Gina Perfetti at [gperfett@css.edu](mailto:gperfett@css.edu).

1988 - 25 year reunion. Contact Mandy LeGarde (Roman) at [www.denfeldalumni.com](http://www.denfeldalumni.com) for more info.

1983 - 30 year reunion on Friday, Aug 2, 2013 during the Spirit Valley Days Street Dance and Sat, Aug 3, 2013 at the Buffalo House. For more details available on Denfeld Class of 1983 Facebook Page.

1973 - 40 year reunion July 2013. Please watch for mailings and other information.

1963 - 50 year reunion on Sept 7, 2013. For more info contact Terrie Killian at (218) 624-3145.

When touring the school during your reunion, be sure to visit the school store in the new addition to purchase some Denfeld Alumni merchandise and show off your everlasting school spirit.

If your class is planning a reunion and would like to organize a tour of Denfeld, please contact Janis Kramer at [janis.kramer@duluth.k12.mn.us](mailto:janis.kramer@duluth.k12.mn.us). If you're having a reunion or other get-together but are not scheduling a tour of the building, consider showing a DVD guided tour of the remodeled Denfeld High School. The Denfeld Alumni Association has a 14-minute narrated video of still photos, serving as a guided tour through the building. Contact Kristine Baird at (218) 591-9453 for more information. Some reunion profits have been going to the Denfeld Alumni Association to thank them.



## Did You Know?

The pipe organ committee was formed in December, 1924. The Denfeld Municipal Pipe Organ was purchased in 1926 from the St. Paul Capitol Theatre for \$25,000. It was originally planned to purchase a smaller organ, but a student fundraiser made it possible for a larger one. It was officially dedicated in front of a packed house in June, 1927 by St. Paul's Hugo Goodwin.

A pipe organ produces sound by driving pressurized air (called wind) through pipes selected via a keyboard. Each organ pipe produces a single pitch. The pipes are provided in sets called ranks, each of which has a common timbre and volume throughout the keyboard compass. There is one pipe for each note on the keyboard. A pipe organ has one or more keyboards played by the hands, and a pedalboard played by the feet, each of which has its own group of stops. The stops allow the control of multiple ranks of pipes of differing timbre, pitch, and loudness, which can be played singly or in combination. The organ's continuous supply of wind allows it to sustain notes for as long as the corresponding keys are depressed, unlike the piano whose sound begins to decay.

The Denfeld Municipal Pipe Organ is a Kilgen with 37 ranks of pipes and five percussion stops within its walls. The pipes are behind the auditorium's archways around the stage and one is in the back of the auditorium. Its sound is produced from blowing a stream of air produced by a compressor in the basement. The organ has six divisions: swell, great, choir, echo, pedal and percussion.

Famous organists such as Virgil Fox and E. Power Biggs have played the Denfeld Municipal Pipe Organ. It is "as much a part of our tradition as the tower", principal Samskar stated in 1976. Three divisions of the organ were no longer operable by 1999 including echo, percussion and choir. A group called ADOPT (A Denfeld Organ Project) is raising funds to restore the organ.

## Denfeld Now!

Highlights from the 2012 Fall Semester

Fall Sports Standings	W	L	T
Football	0	9	
Boys Soccer	11	6	2
Girls Soccer	10	7	1
Volleyball	12	10	
Girls Tennis	0	17	



Taylor Olson after a goal against Cloquet



## Hunters in the News



Tonya Sconiers  
DHS Principal

Denfeld Principal Tonya M. Sconiers receives the 2012 YWCA's Women of Distinction award for the significance of her contributions to the community. The YWCA works to empower women, end racism, and promote peace and equality in the Duluth area.



Check out the newsletter online at [denfeldalumni.com](http://denfeldalumni.com)!

## Denfeld Alumni Association

401 N. 44th Ave. W.  
Duluth, MN 55807  
Phone: 218-336-8830  
[www.denfeldalumni.com](http://www.denfeldalumni.com)



### Board Members:

Marilyn Monson (1946)  
Adrienne Thureen (Bergquist, 1957)  
Dick Skogg (1957)  
Karin Swor (Henson, 1960)  
Linda Paulick (Seeger, 1963)  
Richard Swanson (1966)  
Joe Vukelich (1977)  
Anna Montgomery (Jimenez, 1979)  
Tim LeGarde (1988)  
Mandy LeGarde (Roman, 1988)  
Eric Menor (1994)  
Dr. Amber Erickson (1997)  
Tom Skull (2000)  
Kristine Baird (Watkins, 2004)

# Denfeld Alumni Association

401 N. 44th Ave. W  
Duluth, MN 55807

## Support The Denfeld Alumni Association!

Donations will be used to continue to promote Denfeld Alumni Events such as the Hall of Fame, newsletters and outreach projects.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class of \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like your donation to go towards a specific project, please specify:

\_\_\_\_\_

The Denfeld Alumni Association is a Minnesota nonprofit, tax deductible public charity under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Make check payable to  
Denfeld Alumni Association  
401 N. 44th Ave. W., Duluth, MN 55807  
Tax deductible receipt available upon request

## Stay in Touch!

Use this form to update your contact information.

You can also use this form to inform us of a fellow Denfeld Alumni who would like to receive this news letter.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class of \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Denfeld Alumni Association  
401 N 44th Ave W., Duluth, MN 55807