BUSY WITH GOOD DEEDS AT BADGER
Middle school student council reaches out with projects
Students add Stars and Stripes Honor Flight to the list of groups they’re helping

By KRISTYN ADAMS
For the Daily News

Spring break was well-deserved for members of the Badger Middle School student council as recent back-to-back projects have benefitted local and national causes.
On the heels of assisting the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight organization honor military veterans with free travel to Washington, D.C. to visit its memorials, a drive to support the Washington County Humane Society is underway to benefit homeless animals.
Badger Middle School vice principal and student council adviser Art Bergman said the 2013-14 student council members have much to offer.
“These students get very excited about these projects,” Bergman said. “They’ve developed good leadership skills and from what I have seen, if you give the students ideas and let them go off and develop their own approach, there is no limit to how far they can go.”
Bergman said student council members don’t shy away from projects requiring time, fundraising, communications or teamwork throughout the year.
“It’s a mixture of grade levels so all ages can interact and help one another,” Bergman said.
“We’ve supported Washington County Humane Society in the past, but Honor Flight is a new one for us.”

At Badger on Thursday, student council members Blake Furlano and Brianna Brenner indicated a willingness to help others shared by the 50-member student council membership with a friendly, positive attitude at its core.
The eighth-graders described their student council experiences, which began in sixth grade.
“If you come together with a bunch of people, you can really get a lot done, and positively impact your school, and the community benefits, too.” Furlano said.
He recollected a previous coat drive. “It feels great to see it all happen, like during the Christmas parade when we collected coats and snow-pants,” Furlano said. “We ended up with two huge bins full of them so kids could be warm through winter. Families could come here and grab what they needed.”

“It’s really heartwarming to see these projects come together,” Renner said. “A life change can come from a simple thing like a jacket for a child, because otherwise they’d miss out on playing outside and enjoying physical activities in the snow. You can’t be cooped up if you’re a little kid.”
Art Bergman said a Thanksgiving basket project for was an impressive start for 2013-14 student council efforts as baskets were assembled for needy families.

“About 25 of the baskets were given to families here at Badger,” Bergman said.
Momentum from one project spurs the next, yet delegates Blake and Renner seem to typify a keen approach to prioritizing time. “It was hard to get to (student council) meetings at the beginning of the year because I was really into sports,” Renner said.

“Scheduling was tough. I always had to check with (student council adviser Jennifer Gessner) to find out what I missed.”

“Basketball takes a lot of time,” Furlano said. “Budgeting time is important. Student council runs until about 4:30, then I try to get sports in and time with my family and then there’s homework.” “Homework always comes first,” added Renner, who already has her eye on college for a career in pediatric medicine.

“I want to help kids,” she said.
After money was earned from seasonal candy sales, the student council brainstormed a list of 10 organizations. “We narrowed it down from there,” Renner said.
Students voted to donate to Honor Flight.
“My grandpa is a veteran, and I think it would be neat if he could go on an Honor Flight someday. I can see how important it is. My grandpa is what made this project kind of special to me,” Furlano said.

On March 5, a representative from the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight organization and a Korean War veteran were presented a check for $400.

The students also voted to donate funds to the Washington County Humane Society to start off its March pet supply drive.

Executive Director Marnie Brown expressed thanks to the Badger Middle School students and said the donation drive will help WCHS staff and homeless animals alike.

“Donations always impact us tremendously,” Brown said. “The timing is perfect because kitten season will start up around May and carry through fall. People don’t realize how much a donation helps, and these students who get involved again and again — I always think ‘Wow — we didn’t have projects like this when I was their age.’ The selflessness of these kids never ceases to amaze me.”

Initially planned for March 17-21, the drive is extended through end of March. Those who want to donate pet items to the Washington County Humane Society are encouraged to bring them to the Badger Middle School office. Needs include small animal toys, rabbit food, Clorox wipes, paper stock (office use), Purina Small Bites, dog and cat treats and disposable latex gloves. Cash donations toward a reliable van are also accepted.

For more information, visit www.washingtoncountyhumane.org.

Kristyn Adams/For the Daily News

From left, Blake Furlano, 14, Brianna Renner, 13, and student council adviser Art Bergman choose images from a new Honor Flight photo book Thursday at Badger Middle School. Three copies of the book are a thank you from the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight organization for a donation from the school’s student council.

Items displayed outside the Badger Middle School guidance office Thursday serve as reminder of the student council’s donation drive benefitting the Washington County Humane Society.
2014 PREVIEW: WEST SOFTBALL

New coach takes over reins of Spartans
Team has 10 juniors

By NICHOLAS DETTMANN
Daily News

West Bend West’s new softball coach Dallas Wodsedalek isn’t coming into this season completely blind.
For nine years, he was an assistant on Kewaskum’s softball team, and the Indians had played against the Spartans in previous seasons.
Having that familiarity is helping Wodsedalek prepare for the season.
“I’m excited, very excited,” he said about the upcoming season. “I think the team looks real athletic.”
It is his first head coaching job.
“It’s great to be coming in with a new philosophy and being the leader of the program,”
Wodsedalek said.
Wodsedalek didn’t take long to point out the key for the Spartans this season: senior pitcher Sally Mundinger.
“As she goes, we’re going to go,” Wodsedalek said. “My goal is to give her the best defense behind her I can. We’re going to look to the juniors to have her back.”
Mundinger has been on the varsity team since her freshman season and has pitched the bulk of the innings throughout high school.
As one of four seniors on the team, Mundinger is surging to the front to be a leader because of her experience.
“She makes everybody around her better,” Wodsedalek said. “She gives it all. She’s been a really good role model.”
The other seniors are Katy Banovich, Kelsey Beaver and Brianna Iverson.
Banovich will not play this season because of a knee injury suffered during the basketball season.
“Their leadership has been very good,” Wodsedalek said.
The Spartans have a load of juniors that will be the nucleus of the team this year and, if they all return, next year as well. There are 10 juniors on the team. Four of them were on varsity last season, Paige Stauske, Caitlyn Moore, Ashley Hoelz and Abby Rychtik.
Altogether, Wodsedalek likes how the team is coming together and responding to the new leadership.
“They’re gelling very well; they’re having fun,” he said. “They’re very strong. We’ve got a lot of strength. Our corners are going to be very good. Our middle infield looks stout.”
“We’re going to find out,” Wodsedalek added when asked if it is good or bad to have so many juniors on the team. “I think they’re going to handle it. You can really see the skill set and what we’re trying to do. And they’re buying into the program and that’s number one.”

So what kind of team will Wodsedalek field?
One that is aggressive, offensively and defensively.
“With a young team, we’re going to see good pitching and will have to put pressure on defense,” he said. “That’s what we’re going to do. We’re working very hard on bunting.”
Ashley Dickman, Reiley Collins and Hoelz are speedsters on the base paths. Haley Moore looks to provide a boost as well in Wodsedalek’s game plan.
“We’ve got some good athleticism, good quickness,” he said. “There’s going to be a lot of opportunities for the juniors to step up and they’re going to have to.”
Providing support for Mundinger in case she struggles or has an injury, will be a key for West as well.
“If you only have one pitcher, you can fail very quickly,” Wodsedalek said. “You’ve got to have backups.”
There are options in the circle for West.
“We’ve got a couple pitchers at every level,” Wodsedalek said.
In addition, the Spartans have some players with some power at the plate.
“I think we’ll be competitive,” Wodsedalek said. “I think we’ll scare some of the good teams and maybe sneak out some wins against them.”

ROSTER
Coach: Dallas Wodsedalek, first season
Seniors
Sally Mundinger, Katy Banovich, Kelsey Beaver, Brianna Iverson
Juniors
Paige Stauske, Caitlyn Moore, Ashley Hoelz, Abby Rychtik, Ashley Dickman, Natalie Merkt, Haley Moore, Jichell Generalls, Elizabeth Carlson, Hannah Koepp
Sophomore
Reiley Collins

SCHEDULE
Tuesday: at Grafton 4:30 p.m.; April 4: at Homestead 4:15 p.m.; April 8 at Watertown 4:30 p.m.; April 10 at Hartford Union 4:30 p.m.; April 11 Mayville 4:30 p.m.; April 15 Oconomowoc (DH) 4 p.m.; April 17 Beaver Dam 4:30 p.m.; April 22 at Wisconsin Lutheran 4:30 p.m.; April 24 Watertown 4:30 p.m.; May 1: at East (DH) 4 p.m.; May 3 at New Berlin Invitational 4 p.m.; May 6 Hartford Union 4:30 p.m.; May 8 at Beaver Dam 4:30 p.m.; May 10 at Kewaskum Invitational 9:30 a.m.; May 13 at Slinger 4:30 p.m.; May 15 Wisconsin Lutheran 4:30 p.m.; May 16 at Lomira 5 p.m.