

# The DAR School Sparkler

## "SCHOOLS ARE THE JEWELS OF DAR"

### *From The Chairman's Heart*

We've been going through the Chapter Master Reports (CMR) and gleaning some fun and informative information. Starting in this edition, we are highlighting various members across the nation who are being recognized for their work with the DAR School Committee. Also, in this edition you'll see some of our CMR statistics. By flowing these statistics to the membership, I hope it is highlighting to you that we do read the CMRs. We do listen to what you're saying. We are paying attention. The DAR School committee has had meetings discussing our findings and we hope to take these findings to try to make this committee more meaningful to you at the chapter level!



If you are coming to Congress, please stop by the DAR School Committee table during Sparkle Night Friday night! We will be there to greet you and answer any questions. However, the most important thing to US is that we meet YOU. So come by, say hello, and introduce yourself.

It has been a great year for the DAR School Committee. As we start this last year of the Wright Administration, I know it is going to be another fantastic year of DAR Daughters doing GREAT things for Education, whether it be DAR Schools, Community Classroom, or DAR Scholarships.

Sparkle On!

Dawn Crumly Lemongello  
National Chair, DAR School



**PURCHASE A DAR SCHOOL PIN FROM THE DAR STORE  
TO SUPPORT THE DAR JEWELS**

[HTTPS://SHOP.DAR.ORG/HEARTS-SCHOOLS-PIN/](https://shop.dar.org/hearts-schools-pin/)

### *Mark Your Calendars and Join Us To Celebrate*

#### *KDS 100th Anniversary Dedication Celebration*

Wednesday, October 2

Early Evening | Welcome Reception

Thursday, October 3

9:00 a.m. | Welcome to KDS!

Morning | Campus Tours, Classroom Visits

Noon | Lunch on campus

Afternoon | Meetings

Evening | 100th Anniversary Gala Event

Friday, October 4

Morning | Dedication Day Program

11:00 a.m. | Famous Basket Lunch

Afternoon | Dedication Ceremony – Centennial Campus Commons

Evening | Football Game

<https://www.kdsdar.org/dedication-day>



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**EDUCATION LUNCHEON**  
HOSTED BY THE  
DAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS 2025

## *DAR Member Spotlight*

Patricia McKenzie, George Clinton Chapter

Patricia McKenzie has been the DAR School Chair for the George Clinton Chapter, NSDAR for the past four administrations. Pat counts her time as chair by her DAR School pins... the owls, the apple, the fish, and the hearts. According to her chapter's Regent, Leslie Holmes, "As a retired teacher, Pat's devotion to education and children did not end with her retirement."

Pat's enthusiasm for the DAR School Committee is evident. Every August and September, she passes a wooden school bus to collect money to give to a selected DAR approved school. She also sends school supplies. Pat presented Walmart gift cards to the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School from her chapter, personally presenting them to KDS Executive Director Heather Green during Ohio's School Tour.



Many women are committed to the mission of the DAR School Committee, but meeting Pat and witnessing her devotion to the schools made her the perfect choice as Ohio's Outstanding Chapter Chair. It's inspiring to work with women who still share such enthusiasm and love for DAR.

Mary Ann DeVold, Ohio State Chair DAR School Committee

## *Take a Minute to share the DAR School Committee with your chapter ...*

Brook Tyler Hanna, National Vice Chair Communications

### *The Gem of Gunter Mountain*

According to several accounts of the history of Marshall County, Alabama, the earliest settlers of the Gunter Mountain area came from North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and Tennessee between 1785 and 1830. They were Revolutionary War soldiers and their descendants. They found a beautiful, fertile land on Gunter Mountain located at the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains.

In the early 1900s, the Alabama Society Daughters of the American Revolution selected the rural area of Gunter Mountain to build a school to continue their mission of promoting educational opportunity. The DAR recognized in the people of Gunter Mountain a legacy of self-reliance and patriotism handed down from their forefathers. The school was built on land donated by the people of Gunter Mountain and built by the hard work of the local population.



*The Construction of the Kate Duncan Smith School was a Community Effort involving Residents of the Gunter Mountain Community and members of the Alabama Society Daughters of the American Revolution. School Construction began in 1924.*

*Excerpts from Gunter Mountain Chapter and Alabama State Organization, NSDAR websites.*



### *Pick & Bow*

Hindman Settlement School has a low to no-cost after-school music program offering students the opportunity to learn--both in-person and virtually--the dulcimer, banjo, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, and ukulele from master musicians.

Research has shown that musicianship is an invaluable tool in helping children to develop socially and mentally. In addition, specifically learning Appalachian old-time music instills a sense of pride and connection to the region and provides a great introduction to Appalachia's cultural heritage for youth.

Each semester of Pick & Bow lasts approximately 12 weeks and culminates with a student concert and family celebration. Check out Hindman's events calendar for the next concert date! <https://hindman.org/calendar/>

Watch and learn more about the Pick and Bow program at <https://youtu.be/VXzvm-Fw-c>

## *DAR School Scholarship Winners*

Tracy Suarez, National Vice Chair, DAR School - Scholarship

The NSDAR School Scholarship Committee of Judges ("Committee") met in March to review the DAR School Scholarship Applications and select the winners. Our distinguished panel of judges includes DAR member, Christine Page, Ponce de Leon Chapter, Winter Haven, Florida; retired teacher, Wendi Wooddell, Winter Haven, Florida; and community leader, Karen Tiner, Davenport, Florida. Selecting the winners from among so many talented students is never an easy task, but the



Committee is pleased to announce that their selections were approved by the NSDAR Executive Board as follows:

The Idamae Cox Otis Scholarship will be awarded to two KDS students: Shayna Harbin and Aubrey Adams. The Idamae Cox Otis Scholarship is a \$1,000.00 per year scholarship and is renewable for four consecutive years.

The Longman-Harris Scholarship will be awarded to one KDS student: Priscilla Cox. The Longman-Harris Scholarship is a \$2,000.00 per year scholarship and is renewable for four consecutive years.

The Mildred Louise Brackney Scholarship will be awarded to two KDS students: Aubrey Adams and Landon Black. The Mildred Louise Brackney Scholarship is a one-time award in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Additionally, five students from Crossnore Communities for Children and two students from Hillside School will be awarded Frankie Ellen Wood Giroux Boarding Scholarships. The Giroux Boarding Scholarship is a one-time award of \$2,000 for up to five Crossnore students and up to five Hillside students to cover tuition, subsistence, and other expenses of the student.

Reading the scholarship applications of these amazing students was truly inspiring, and working with Kate Duncan Smith DAR School, Crossnore Communities for Children, and Hillside School, was indeed a pleasure. The Committee congratulates the winners and wishes them all the best as they continue to sparkle in communities.

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## *Chapter Juniors Raise \$4,000 for Friends of DAR Schools*

Teri Fischer, Regent, Jephtha Abbott Chapter

Jephtha Abbott Chapter on the Main Line of Philadelphia raised \$4,000 for Friends of DAR Schools at their annual DAR Fashion Show this Spring. This annual event has been a tradition since the 1940's originating at a local church where they had their meetings and has grown to a beautiful event that can hold more people at one of the local country clubs. This event is run by Juniors who decide everything about the fundraiser including which DAR Committee will receive the profit from the event which includes subscriptions, patrons, and vendors.

This year, Chapter Junior Chair Leila Gresh chose a long-time favorite for the winner--Friends of DAR Schools to the delight of Friends of DAR School Chapter Chair Pat Thomas. To show support, DAR School PA State Chair Jen Thorpe attended the event which featured fashions from a local store with the outfits modeled by Pat Thomas and Junior Members.



## Contact The Committee

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# Hillside School - Maximizing Student Potential

Richard Meyer, Director of DAR Relations, Hillside School

**1901**

Charlotte Drinkwater and her sister Mary Drinkwater Warren open Hillside School on their family farm in Greenwich, Massachusetts.



**1907**

Hillside School is incorporated and becomes Hillside School, Inc.



**1925**

Hillside becomes a Daughters of the American Revolution approved school.



**1927**

Hillside moves from Greenwich, MA to Marlborough, MA because the state decided to flood Greenwich and three other towns to create the Quabbin Reservoir.



**1932**

Drinkwater Hall, the building that currently houses our Innovation Center, is built to replace the administrative building which had been destroyed by fire the year before.



**1945**

John Whittemore becomes headmaster of Hillside beginning a span of 40 years in which he and then his son, Dick Whittemore, ran the school.



**1856**

Simeon Stevens Hall, our current academic building, is constructed at a cost of \$200,000.



**1996**

Hillside expands its program to include Ninth Graders.



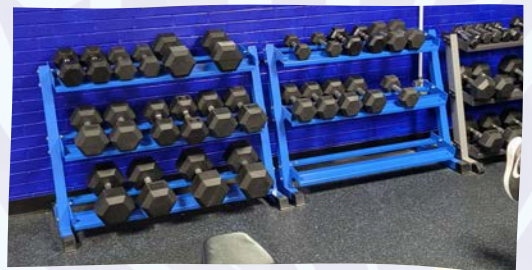
**2001**

Hillside celebrates its centennial anniversary and begins enacting a master plan for campus expansion and renovations beginning with our Student Center building and dining hall.



**2021**

A fire destroys the 100 year old barn on Hillside's farm, providing the impetus to expand our program by creating a lower school on that site for grades K-3.



Photos from Richard Meyer showing the Multipurpose Room and Fitness Center items purchased by the Friends of the DAR Schools distribution.

## News From The Schools

### Crossnore Communities for Students

A few highlights of Crossnore's Williams Academy school year included field trips to places like Valle Crucis, Bay's Mountain, Grandfather Mountain, J.R. Clontz's Ponderosa, and more! Our K-3rd grade students loved their trip to Barter Theatre to see Charlotte's Web. Students had a great time learning through a myriad of projects, including exploring the earth's layers with Playdough and physics with a rocket build and launch party. Thanks to several local agencies, our K-5 students learned all about fire safety. We had an especially fun time talking about and viewing the eclipse, complete with Sun Drop, Moon Pies, and eclipse cupcakes! And of course we celebrated our annual traditions like Spirit Week, holidays, our student art show, prom, and our test prep pep rally! It has been an amazing year, and the students were so excited to welcome summer. We'd also like to give special thanks to The Lost Pines DAR for donating our grinch hats for our winter recital, and the suspenders and bow ties for our spring recital. Of course the children looked amazing in their recital costumes!



### Berry College

Berry President to Retire in 2025 - Dr. Steve Briggs, who has served as Berry College president since 2006, will retire at the end of the 2024-25 academic year.

Throughout his tenure as Berry's eighth president, Dr. Briggs has embraced the enterprising spirit of founder Martha Berry, demonstrating the continuing relevance of her historic education of the head, heart, and hands. Under Dr. Briggs' leadership, Berry has expanded its academic offerings and residential capacity; the sciences and health sciences are now the largest areas of study with strong programs also in the humanities, arts, business, education, and creative technologies. Berry has opened or renovated a dozen buildings, most recently breaking ground on a health science building. Berry also joined NCAA Division III, added nine varsity sports, upgraded its athletic facilities, and became a founding member of the Southern Athletic Association.

"The college is thriving, and I am excited about how we are elevating Berry's distinctive student experience and exploring forward-looking programs and partnerships. The years ahead are full of possibilities," Dr. Briggs said.



### Hillside School

As we write this update we are in the midst of our review days leading up to our Spring Term Exams. By the time you read it, our 36 Ninth Graders (our senior class) will have graduated and they and all of their schoolmates will be off on summer vacation. It is hard to believe how quickly the Spring Term has flown by, but we have accomplished a lot in these two months.

A highlight of this spring, as it is every spring, was our annual DAR Day on May 8. Over 100 Daughters were in attendance as the boys proudly showed off their school. Special moments of the day included a presentation by our Fourth and Fifth Grade class about the Community Garden Project they have been engaged in this spring, three of our musicians who performed beautifully for the ladies, and five of our Ninth Graders who spoke passionately about their time at Hillside and the difference it has made in their lives.

Student leadership has been a focus this spring. Our Eighth and Ninth Grade Leadership classes each took on a project this spring to make the campus better. The Ninth Grade Leadership class assembled the equipment, donated last June by the Junior Membership Committee, for our woodshop. We are now ready to fully engage in woodworking projects with the boys. The Eighth Grade Leadership class focused on environmental issues. They engaged in projects designed to promote recycling, responsible use, beautification of the campus, and an herb garden.



## News From The Schools – continued ...

### Hindman Settlement School

AmeriCorps and Serve Kentucky, the federal and state agencies for national service and volunteerism, have awarded Hindman Settlement School two grants totaling \$1,014,084 supporting new and existing initiatives.

Funding from the agencies will be used to support the continued implementation and growth of ReadingCorps, a literacy intervention program targeted at K-3 students who face barriers to grade-level reading as a result of one or more dyslexia indicators, and our new MathCorps project, which will provide targeted support to elementary and middle school students who are performing below grade-level in math.



### Kate Duncan Smith School

KDS senior Lauren Buchanan has been named the 4A Region 7 Scholar Athlete by the Bryant-Jordan Scholarship Foundation. Lauren has played point guard on the Lady Patriot Varsity Basketball Team since her freshman year and is also a member of the KDS Track Team.

In addition to her athletic achievements, Lauren is also a stellar student, holding a 4.43 GPA and having scored 31 on the ACT. She will be attending Auburn University on academic scholarship in the fall to major in accounting. With this honor, Lauren also receives a \$3,000 scholarship.

# CMR Statistics

- 99% of Chapters filled out a report for the DAR School Committee
- 40% of Chapters had a DAR School Committee Chapter Chair
- 32% of Chapters had a program on DAR Schools or gave a “DAR School Minute” at every meeting
- 11% of Chapters provide the DAR School Sparkler to their members
- 37% of Chapter encourage their membership to visit the DOC DAR School page
- 22% of Chapters had a special project or program promoting DAR Schools