

## News Release

Feb. 9, 2007

### Trader Crow's Opens at DeKalb High School

DeKalb – DeKalb High School opened its own store, Trader Crow's, on Jan. 31, but no amount of money will purchase the goods found inside. The store is part of an incentive program where students make "purchases" with stamps. The store is the brainchild of the school's Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies, or PBIS, team.

PBIS was introduced to the high school last year by Clinton Rosette Middle School administrators Craig Bowers and Matt Bohrer. Approximately 10 staff volunteers went through PBIS training in March 2006. Math teacher Kara Arison is the PBIS coordinator for the high school.

PBIS focuses largely on prevention of problems. In schools, primary prevention consists of rules, routines, and physical arrangements that are developed and taught by school staff to prevent initial occurrences of problem behavior. Positive behavior is rewarded.



Each teacher, teaching assistant, and administrator has a Crow's Feet stamp and each student received a stamp card. Students can acquire stamps for positive behavior. One of the early emphases is being on time and prepared for class. Students collect their stamps and can redeem them for a variety of items such as granola bars, notebooks, t-shirts, and gift certificates. Trader Crow's is open on

Wednesdays during lunch hours (10:25-1:00) and after school from 2:45-3:30.



Getting the store up and running was a school-wide effort. The store name was chosen through a school contest in November 2006. Junior Aaron Fairbanks came up with the winning name, Trader Crow's. Senior Stacy Kim designed the "Be a BARB" stamp card that was distributed to all of the students. The DHS Spanish Club purchased the Crow's Feet stamps which were distributed to staff.

The stocking and staffing of Trader Crow's has reached beyond the school into the community. The store received donations from the DeKalb Barb Boosters (t-shirts), teacher Suzanne Havlicek (Barbie Crow pins), and others as well as area businesses. "Mobil SuperPantry donated money which was used to purchase gift cards from Mobil and Target," Arison said. "[Security aide] Jeff Davis donated a very nice hooded sweatshirt, and we are also using money from the pop machines to finance part of the store needs. We are also looking into donations from other area organizations." The store is staffed by school staff and community volunteers. "The store couldn't run without the volunteers we have had and will continue to have," Arison said. Helen Traglia and LaMetra Curry, both volunteers from V.O.I.C.E.S. (Volunteers Offering Intergenerational Collaborative Experiences with Students), were on hand to help out on opening day.