

Through Tiger's Eyes

Delano High School's Family Newsletter

What's Happening at Delano High School

Volume 4 , Issue 4
April/May
2010

The final quarter is upon us! We are fast approaching the end of the school year with a tremendous amount of logistical activities taking place during the next few months. This is a curious time of the school year where we begin to celebrate the accolades of our success, yet at the same time stay cautious and focused to finish strong and bring a successful conclusion to our school year. One activity that will be happening in the next few months is a mock car crash and Backstrom family presentation on Tuesday morning, April 20. This event simulates a car crash involving DHS students and a local family. This effort is coordinated with Wright County Emergency Services, the City of Delano and the high school. The mock car crash and the Backstrom family presentation is a bi-annual event for our junior and senior students the week before prom. The Backstrom family presentation is an hour long story given by Mr. and Mrs. Backstrom detailing the events when a drunk driver killed their three sons.

On Wednesday, April 21, a guest speaker will talk with our ninth and tenth grade students regarding the issue of abstinence. Molly Sanborn has spoken to thousands of students in many schools across the country and finds the most satisfaction in motivating youth to set high standards and wait for what she calls "the best sex" - sex within the context of marriage. Her message is fun and upbeat, inclusive for all and leaves the audience challenged to set high personal

standards for themselves. She is motivated to intervene in endless stories she often hears from teens whose lives have been severely impacted by their choices in high school. Molly served three years as her high school class president while maintaining a 4.0 GPA and playing three sports. She was the captain of her college volleyball team, was named to the Dean's list every semester, and has travelled to nine countries.

On Tuesday, April 27 at 7:00 a.m. Delano High School will take the opportunity to celebrate the academic successes of our 9-11 grade students at our annual Honor Roll Recognition Breakfast. This is always an exciting time as there are so many students who will be recognized for their academic excellence. And last, but not least, on Wednesday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m., we will recognize our senior students at the annual Senior Honors/Dollars for Scholars ceremony. This is a prime example of how our community through Dollars for Scholars supports the achievements of the talented graduating class of 2010. These are just a few of the multitude events that will be happening in the next nine weeks. Please see additional information within this newsletter regarding other scheduled events.

I would like to take the opportunity to briefly update you on Delano High

School's School Improvement Plan (SIP) for the 2009-2010 school year. The first four goals of the SIP involve student achievement in math, reading, writing and science, as measured by the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment II tests facilitated in April. Faculty and staff have taken measures throughout the course of the year to prepare our students for these all-important state tests. Results should be available sometime in June. The final two goals involve the continued implementation of a successful advisory program at the high school that will focus on academics, registration and grade-specific large and small group sessions. The goal of the advisory program is to personalize the learning experience throughout high school for each and every student. And finally, our staff has continued to take on the challenge of implementing 21st Century technologies in the classroom. This will be a continual effort for the next several years in the high school.

I would like to thank all parents, students and staff for another successful school year. A reminder to the graduating class of 2010 that you should have received detailed information regarding the conclusion of the school year, and specifically detailed information regarding graduation, which will be held Sunday, June 6 at 1:30 p.m. in the Tiger Activity Center.

**-Matt Schoen
Principal**



DHS Math Team Wins 7th Conference Title

Teams at Delano Public Schools come in all shapes and sizes. There are athletic teams and there are academic teams. The Math Team is one of the most successful academic teams in the high school and the members like to be known as "mathletes." And this is not a small team, a record 75 mathletes participated for the Tigers this year.

2010 marks the 7th straight year that Delano has placed first in the conference. In addition, the Tiger Math Team had 7 of the top 10 individuals in the conference. Conner Dykstra placed 2nd, Austin Meyer placed 4th, Zach Muckenhirn placed 5th, Kelsey Holm and James Redinger tied for 7th and Dylan Shallbetter placed 10th.

During the 2010 season, the Tigers placed first in all five meets in their eight team conference finishing 126 points ahead of their closest competitor, with a record 419 points. The team went on to place first at the conference meet. Kaitlin Denison led the Tigers in their final meet earning 12 points followed by Sandra Arnold and James Redinger with 11 points each. Kristin Hedtke, Kelsey Holm, Evan Lemmerman, Dirk Meyer, Zach Muckenhirn, Sheldon Way, and Dustin Ziegelman each contributed 10 points while Josh Maki finished with 9 points. Emily Hemmingway placed first for the season and also participated in the individual portion of the state tournament. In the state meet, the team finished 13th, which is the highest the Tiger



Math Team has ever achieved. Emily finished 16th overall and had the 2nd highest score of any female in the state. Delano High School is very proud of this very successful academic team which continues to grow and prosper year after year.

Congratulations Mathletes!

The spring athletic seasons are officially off and running—please come cheer on the Tigers in Baseball, Softball, Golf and Track and Field!

Congratulations to all the Winter Activity participants! It was a great season with representatives from Gymnastics, Boys Swimming, Wrestling, Math and Science Olympiad Teams competing at state tournaments.

For all activity schedules, log on to www.wcconference.org



DHS to Stage Mock Car Crash

On Tuesday, April 20, Delano High School will be staging a mock car crash for students in grades 11 and 12. This mock car crash will take place on Tiger Drive across from Delano Middle School from 9-10 a.m.

Emergency vehicle sights and sounds will be seen and heard throughout the town of Delano that morning and weather permitting, there will also be a helicopter airlift of a victim. Delano High School is staging this mock car crash to bring awareness to students about the serious consequences of drug and alcohol use while operating a motor vehicle. Most importantly we want parents and community members to know this is a staged event and not a real accident.

Following the mock car crash, Connie and Nathan Backstrom will be sharing their family tragedy with the students to educate them about alcohol use and how it affects more



than just those involved in a motor vehicle accident. On October 10, 2004, the Backstrom family lost three sons when a drunk driver struck their car in rural Dakota County, Minnesota. "If we can get kids to

think about their choices and make better choices, we've done what we have come to do," said Connie Backstrom about their decision to share their story to educate young people. This presentation will take place from 10-11 a.m. in the Delano Middle School Auditorium.

The mock car crash and Backstrom family presentation is intentionally planned to take place before the DHS Prom which is scheduled for Saturday, April 24. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the mock car crash or Backstrom presentation, please contact DHS Principal, Matt Schoen at 763.972.3365, ext. 2220.

Is Your Student Ready for College?

How Parents and High School Prepares Students

Preparation for college begins at birth. The U.S. Department of Education says children from infancy to age 5 develop important language, thinking, emotional, physical and social skills they will use throughout life. As a parent, you are the teacher that showed them the world through their preschool years. Then your child's horizon opened a bit more through elementary school and middle school years. When your student enters high school, they begin the final stretch where knowledge is gained as they prepare for college.

What is college readiness? College readiness refers to the level of student preparation needed to be ready to succeed, without remediation, in an introductory level course at a two or four year institution, trade school or technical college. Beginning in tenth grade, students take the PLAN test. This test is a preliminary ACT test that assists in predicting a student's success on the ACT. This test consists of four parts: a English (grammar) section, a Math section, a Reading section, and a Science section. Each portion of the test has a different number of questions and different amount of time allotted. The PLAN test is scored between 1-32 by a composite scoring system, much like the ACT.

Most students take the ACT test in their junior year of high school. The ACT is a standardized test for high school achievement and college admissions in the United States. The ACT test consists of four tests: English, Math, Reading, and Science reasoning. There is also an optional

writing test, which some colleges require for admission. The ACT is scored on a scale of 1-36. The writing test is scored separately and does not affect the composite score. Along with a student's ACT score, institutions evaluate applicants on GPA, class rigor and extracurricular activities.

Who may be underprepared for college? The PLAN and ACT tests allow for early identification of students who are at risk for entering college unprepared. As students advance through school, teachers and administration can identify which students may be at risk. Students are at risk may need remediation and intervention from teacher mentors to meet ACT benchmarks which are a predictor of college success.

The National Education Association says that a home environment that encourages learning is more important to student achievement than income, education level or cultural background. Colleges look for students who have the initiative and ability to pursue their personal interests and goals. During your students four years in high school, help them to become well-rounded, independent and responsible individuals which know the value of education and the rewards it can bring them during their life. If we work together, a post-secondary education can be a natural progression for every student.

For more information on preparing your student for college, log onto www.usaaedfoundation.org, and click on Family.

Science Olympiad Team Places 5th at State Tournament



On Saturday, March 13, the Delano High School Science Olympiad team competed against 32 other teams at the University of St. Thomas and finished in 5th place. Students participating in Science

Olympiad compete in building, content and lab events.

Medal winners include Austin Meyer and Dylan Shallbetter who took home first place in the Physics lab; Sandra Arnold and Dustin Ziegelman, first place in Ornithology; Austin Meyer and Kelsey Arens took third place in Trajectory; and Sandra Arnold, Dylan Shallbetter, and Kelsey Arens also took third place in Mission Impossible.

Science Olympiad is a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of K-12 science education and helps create a passion for learning Science. In addition, it helps change the way science is perceived and the way it is taught with an emphasis on problem solving and hands-on, minds-on learning practices. These goals are achieved by students that participate in Science Olympiad tournaments and non-competitive events.



Front Row (l to r): Connor Dykstra, Dani Denison, Dylan Shallbetter, Cara Sandlass, Kirsten Palan, Kelsey Arens, Sandra Arnold and Emily Hemingway. **Back Row:** Karen Hohenstein, teacher, Dustin Ziegelman, Chris Hegmen, Avery Majjala, Sarah Trocke, Austin Meyer, Jessica Meyer, and teacher Boak Wiesner.

Congratulations to all the Delano High School Science Olympiad members and teachers for their hard work and dedication this season.

DHS Prom: Be Safe and Have Fun

When Prom rolls around at Delano High School, students are looking forward to having fun and parents worry about their student's safety. Here are the details of this year's Prom "When Evening Falls", so you can discuss plans with your student.

DHS Prom will be held on Saturday, April 24. The photographer is McDonald's Studio and Joe McDonald will begin taking photographs at 2:30 p.m. in the Tiger Activity Center. The Grand March will begin at 5 p.m. which is also in the Tiger Activity Center. A dinner and dance will follow immediately after the Grand March at the Sheraton Hotel at 12201 Ridgedale Drive, in Minnetonka. The dance will conclude at 11:30 p.m.

The DHS prom is an alcohol and drug-free event. Once your student checks in at the Grand March, he/she will not be allowed to leave until it is over. Once they arrive at the Sheraton, they cannot leave and come back. If your student needs to obtain something from their vehicle, they must notify a chaperone. Groups that come together must also leave together. Also, per Delano High School policy and the Sheraton policy, rooms are not to be reserved at the hotel.

Let's make this a fun and safe event for the students!

-Susan Farbo
HS Guidance Counselor

DHS Students and Staff Participate in Annual Blood Drive



On March 3, 2010, 108 students and staff took time to donate blood for the American Red Cross. This is the largest number of participants we have ever had. There were 86 first-time blood donors and 8 faculty members.

The American Red Cross helps people in emergencies every day. Whether it's a half million disaster victims or one sick child who needs blood. Learn how good it can feel to lend a helping hand at www.redcross.org.

Thank you to all who participated including junior Rebekah Wright, who is pictured above!

DELANO HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

JOSEPH



JOSEPH is the retelling in song of the Bible story of Joseph and his many colored coat. Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber has mixed a variety of popular song styles into a fast paced and fun show for all ages. An experienced high school cast headed by seniors McKay Elwood as Joseph and Haley Kraus as the Narrator, are ready to give audiences a high energy theatrical treat. In addition to the 11 brothers, a women's ensemble and a children's choir fill out the stage. Other seniors in their final high school theatrical performance include John Trousov as Pharaoh, Lee Peterson and Rachel Braden as Brothers, Emily Hemmingway, Clare Schmidt, and Carly Shouts in the women's ensemble. The show is directed by Drama Director Barb Roy with Musical Director Sandy Meyerson.

Come fill your night with music and fun!
Tickets are available at the door.

April 15, 16, 17 **7:00 p.m.**
April 18 **2:00 pm**
Delano Middle School Auditorium

DHS Announces Triple "A" Award Winners



Delano High School seniors Connor Dykstra and Ann Berglund were selected to represent DHS and Region 2AA in the Triple "A" Award program. The Triple "A" Award program was established in 1988 and is sponsored by the Minnesota High School League. This award goes to one senior male and one senior female student that have excelled in academics, arts and athletics, thus called Triple "A".

Four State Triple "A" Award recipients will be chosen, two males and two females from Class A and Class AA schools and will be recognized at an on-court ceremony that was held in conjunction with the Boys State Basketball Tournament. Award recipients will receive a four-year \$1,000.00 scholarship. For information on the 2010 award recipients, visit www.mshsl.org.

Congratulations Connor and Ann!

What Makes a National Model School?

Delano High School can add another national accolade to its trophy case. The International Center for Leadership in Education (ICLE) has chosen Delano High School as a National Model School. Delano was selected for this award back in 2007 for the first time and the honor will be replicated again this year. ICLE is a national organization whose president, Dr. Willard Daggett, has been on the national education tour for nearly two decades. He and his researchers are constantly looking for successful schools whose students are extremely successful or have shown great improvement.

Schools are chosen on the basis of one of two criteria. 1) Schools must demonstrate dramatic improvement or 2) Schools must demonstrate consistently high achievement levels. Delano High School has demonstrated extremely high levels of student achievement over the past several years and therefore met the criteria of the second domain. The supporting data includes an ACT average of 23.8 which is 1.1 points higher than the state average of 22.7. The state average led the nation, meaning that Delano students scored in the top nationally. Additionally, our state testing scores far exceeded the state averages. Our reading average was 15 points higher than the state while the math

average was 28.5 points higher than the state average. Additionally, when considering Delano as a National Model, we have many programs which are routinely taken for granted. Programs such as our College in the Schools (CIS) which offers students the opportunity to earn up to 35 college credits on our high school campus; Middle College, which offers up to 24 college credits through Rasmussen; and School Within a School, which services students in a non-traditional forum and offers opportunities for all learners at Delano to meet their individual needs.

The National Model School recognition carries with it a couple of obligations. First, Delano recently had a consultant visit the school and write a case study. Secondly, DHS staff will present at the Model Schools Conference in Orlando, Florida, this summer. This conference is expecting five to six thousand teachers and administrators from around the country in attendance. The number of participants truly indicates that schools are looking for ways to improve the academic success of their students. It is comforting to know that Delano will be on the cutting edge.

-Joe Vieau
Assistant Principal

April Calendar

13	HS Site-Base Meeting	7:15 am
13	9th Grade MCA II Writing Test	
	10th Grade MCA II Reading Test	
	11th Grade MCA II Math Test	
14	10th Grade MCA II Reading Test	
	11th Grade MCA II Math Test	
15-17	HS Spring Musical <i>JOSEPH</i> MS Auditorium	7:00 pm
18	HS Spring Musical <i>JOSEPH</i>	2:00 pm
20	Mock Car Crash/Backstrom Family Presentation Tiger Drive/MS Auditorium	9:00 am
24	PROM - Grand March Dinner and Dance immediately following	5:00 pm
26	School Board Meeting	7:00 pm
27	Honor Roll Breakfast - Grades 9-11	7:00 am

May Calendar

2	NHS Induction Ceremony	1:00 pm
6	HS Band Concert	7:30 pm
7	ACT Registration Deadline for June 12 Test	
11	HS Site-Based Meeting	7:15 am
12	HS Senior Honors/Dollars for Scholars Ceremony	7:30 pm
18,19,20	MCA II Science Test for Biology Students	
20	HS Choir Concert	7:30 pm
28	HS Spring Fling Day/Last Day for Seniors	
31	Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL	

Last day of school is Friday, June 4

If your email address changes, you can change your email address information yourself in Family Access. This in turn will update your personal information on the district's database.

- Log into **Family Access**
- Go to **Account Info** in the upper right hand corner and click on it
- Click on **Change My Email** and change your email address

Your email change will then update in our email notification system so you will not miss any important school information!

The 2010-2011 School Calendar has been posted at www.delano.k12.mn.us.



The class of 2010 will graduate on Sunday, June 6 at 1:30 p.m. in the Tiger Activity Center.

Through Tigers Eyes is published by Delano High School. Editor, Traci Lawman, District Office, 763.972.3365, x5111,



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