



# Tiger Territory

Delano High School Newsletter December 2019-January 2020

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## Dates to remember

### December

8.....Jazzy Christmas, 4 p.m.  
9.....HS PIE, 6 p.m.  
10.....Legislative forum, 7 p.m.  
16...School board mtg., 5:45 p.m.  
17.....7-8 band concert, 7 p.m.  
18.....Two-hour late start  
23-31.....Winter break

### January

1-3.....Winter break  
6.....Classes resume  
6...School board mtg., 5:45 p.m.  
13.....HS PIE, 6 p.m.  
13.....Registration meetings  
15.....Two-hour late start  
16.....Registration meetings  
20.....MLK Day, no school  
24.....End of DHS Quarter 2

### February

3.....Conferences, 4 p.m.



## Dramatic success

More than 2,700 tickets were sold for the DHS production "Elf the Musical." See Page 5 for more photos from the show, which involved about 70 students.

## Registration season arrives

By Dr. Steven Heil  
Principal

As we look forward to our holiday break and starting the new year, we'd like to remind our families, staff and students to remain safe on our sidewalks and roadways. Slippery season is upon us.

When we return to school in January, two major events will occur. The first is a presentation by the Minnesota State Patrol for our sophomores, juniors and seniors (see Assistant Principal Shane Baughman's column on Page 9 for additional information). The second event is the registration process.



Dr. Steven Heil

### Registration

The registration process begins this year with parent and

student meetings for those that are new to the process. These meeting dates and times are:

#### Monday, January 13

- 5 p.m. - Incoming 7-8 graders
- 6:15 p.m. - Incoming 9-12 graders
- 7:30 p.m. - Earning College Credits in High School

#### Thursday, January 16

- 5 p.m. - Earning College Credits in High School
- 6:15 p.m. - Incoming 7-8 graders
- 7:30 p.m. - Incoming 9-12 graders

See Heil  
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# DHS earns place on AP Honor Roll

## Delano is the only Minnesota school to qualify

**By Paul Downer**  
Communications Coordinator

When the College Board released its 10th annual AP Honor Roll on Thursday, Dec. 5, Delano High School stood alone as the only Minnesota school to qualify.

Only 250 schools in the United States and Canada earned the honor by simultaneously increasing access to AP courses and increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher (out of a possible 5).

"Honor roll districts defy the expectation that expanding access automatically results in a decline in the percentage of exams earning scores of 3 or better," said Andy Houpt of the College Board.

2019 marks the fourth time in the last five years that Delano has qualified for the AP Honor Roll, a distinction that is particularly difficult to achieve as a result of the requirements to increase both participation and performance.

"This is just another example of the excellent work that our teachers, students and administrators do to main-

tain a high level of academic excellence in our high school," said Delano Superintendent Matt Schoen. "To be the only high school in the state is quite an achievement. We continue to work hard on growing our college-level courses in the high school. The willingness of our students to challenge themselves in the classroom is an example of the strong support of our family community, along with the high level of expectations for our schools in Delano."

### **Keys to success**

DHS Principal Dr. Steve Heil said Delano's inclusion on the honor roll is the result of several factors.

"We work really hard as a high school to increase the access of all of our students have to college level material and coursework while in high school," he said. "It shows the hard work that our students do in the classroom, with homework and in taking the assessments. And it also shows the work the staff does with the students so the students are learning the material and remembering the material. The

AP tests are so in depth you really have to learn the subject matter. You can't just memorize it and then forget it."

Heil said that Delano does not place any restrictions on taking an AP course, unlike some other districts. Students

**'The willingness of our students to challenge themselves in the classroom is an example of the strong support of our family community.'**

**Matt Schoen**

do not have to attain a certain grade point average, class rank or minimum level of performance in prior classes, for example.

"Our AP staff tells students, 'If you want the challenge, please take the course.' So you free the students up to think, 'I can do this,'" said Heil. "Once

you get to sophomore, junior, senior year, we really like the kids that want to challenge themselves. The students know they've got a higher work load and they work hard at it. It turns out pretty well."

Delano High School offers AP courses in biology, human geography, US government and politics, US history, and art. Heil said the expectation in those courses is that students are doing college-level coursework, but teachers also focus on imparting strategies students can use in note-taking, textbook reading and more to prepare them for post-secondary learning.

"AP is about teaching kids how to do a college-level class as much as it is learning college-level material," Heil said. "That's not always true in every school or class."

• In addition to AP classes, Delano High School offers 10 College in the Schools courses, which also allow high school students to pursue college-level materials and credits, but are structured somewhat differently and do have a number of eligibility requirements.

## Drive for vets a success

Thanks to generous donations during the annual clothing drive for veterans in need, school staff delivered sheets, towels, clothing and hygiene items to the Eagle's Healing Nest along with 12 pairs of winter boots. In addition, 170 items were delivered to the St. Cloud VA Hospital to support its new clothing center. At right, members of the 7-8 Student Council sort some of the hygiene items that were collected during the drive.





# Tigers claim third at state swim meet

## Kern sets individual state record in 100 backstroke

**By Paul Downer**  
Communications Coordinator

As a team, Delano swimmers and divers took third place at the Class A state meet Nov. 14-16. Along the way, the Tigers also picked up a state record and individual championship.

Delano scored 145 points to tie with Sauk Centre for third in competition at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center. Visitation of Mendota Heights won its seventh consecutive title with 318 points, and Hutchinson took second with 250 points.

### Individual results

Freshman Emma Kern set a new state record of 55.35 in the 100 backstroke to claim the individual championship. She also took fourth place in the 100 butterfly.

Another swimmer to qualify for individual competition, Kylie Strobl, took eighth place in the 100 freestyle and ninth in the 200 freestyle.



**Members of the girls swim and dive team celebrate their third place finish at the Class A state meet on Saturday, Nov. 16.**

Other individual highlights included Laila Rosenow qualifying for state in the 100 fly, and Avery Lommel becoming the first diver to ever represent Delano at state.

### Relay results

Delano's relay teams also did well. The 400 freestyle relay team of Strobl, Rosenow, Kern and Shelby Benker took third place.

The 200 medley relay took

fourth at state, with Kern, Rosenow, Abby Wadholm and Annabelle Wentzel competing.

The 200 freestyle relay team of Sydney York, Rosenow, Strobl and Josie Strobl took fifth place.

# Barduson, Lommel sign letters of intent

**By Paul Downer**  
Communications Coordinator

A pair of Delano High School pitchers signed National Letters of Intent to compete at the next level on Wednesday, Nov. 13.

Senior Cade Lommel will play Division I baseball at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, and Lexi Barduson signed to play Division II softball at Minot State University in North Dakota.

"I think it's usually about 3 percent of high school kids that get to go on and play at the collegiate level, so it's a pretty amazing opportunity that they've gotten to that spot," said Delano Activities Administrator Ryan Tool at the opening of the signing ceremony.

### Lexi Barduson

In a brief speech before signing her papers, Barduson thanked her parents,



**Lexi Barduson will play DII softball for Minot State University.**

coaches and teammates for their support and encouragement over the years.

"We've made some great memories and I can't wait to see what we accomplish this spring," she said.

Barduson also said some of her high school highlights, to this point, included a



**Cade Lommel will play DI baseball for Creighton University.**

shutout of Waconia and a section victory over Orono. While her senior season remains to craft additional memories, Barduson said she is also looking further ahead.

**See Signing**  
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# Football, runner also make state

It was a banner year for Delano High School's fall sports teams, which had highlights on the field, court and in the pool.

In addition to the third-place finish at state for the girls swim team (see Page 3 for information), the football team advanced to the state quarterfinals, and cross country runner Grace Jostock competed at the state meet after placing 13th overall at sections.

The football team defended its section title with a 17-14 overtime win over top-seeded Becker, but could not solve Rorori in the state quarterfinals. A final highlight of the season was the selection of senior two-way lineman Spencer Poll for the South All-Star Team, which will compete in Minneapolis.

Jostock, a junior, ran in her first state meet at St. Olaf College and became the first Delano girl to run at state since 2010, according to the Delano Herald Journal.



## Raptor wrap

The Raptor Center visited the Zoology class at DHS on Thursday, Nov. 21. Guests included a red-tailed hawk, an American Kestrel, a great horned owl and a bald eagle.



## Signing

from Page 3

"I can't wait for this new adventure," she said.

Delano softball coach AnnaMarie Martino called Barduson "a bulldog of a pitcher" and "a true team player."

"Lexi is one of the hardest working softball players I've ever coached," said Martino. "She is a kid who truly puts in the time outside of the school ball season to make sure she is able to perform at her best for her team. While Lexi isn't always the most vocal player on the team, she definitely shows her leadership through her actions both on and off the field."

Barduson plans to study criminal justice. Her parents are Steven and Cynthia Barduson.

## Cade Lommel

DHS baseball coach Jeff Olson said Lommel made an immediate impression with the high school coaching staff as a freshman.

"It really jumped out to us as coaches who hadn't seen him throw. The talent was there, obviously, and getting to know him as a kid, as a player, was equally awesome," said Olson, adding that Lommel became a member of the varsity pitching staff that first year and even took the ball in the section playoffs against an eventual state champion Waconia squad.

"Cade got the nod against them in the section playoffs, the third round, so for a freshman to get that kind of matchup against a team of that caliber, it would be a lot

for anybody to take on," said Olson. "But Cade threw the heck out of the ball and gave us an outstanding chance to win. We fell just short, 3-2 I think the score was, but it said a lot about him. It was an early indication of the special kid and special player that he was."

In his address, Lommel thanked his teammates, coaches, and especially his parents for guiding him.

"Mom, you always made sure I was getting good grades and challenging myself, whether it was school or sports," he said. "Dad, I always remember that whether it was a baseball or hockey game, you were never disappointed with how I performed, but only if my attitude was poor. That taught me a lot about how to have

fun playing sports, and that no matter how good or bad I was that you guys would always support me."

Olson said he was looking forward to having Lommel on his staff one more season, and said Creighton was getting a high quality person.

"Talent is obviously a huge part of it, but with Cade, what I think of is his character, the hard work, the effort he brings to everything and attitude that he brings every day," said Olson. "Those are the things that stand out to me and his teammates everybody that knows him."

Lommel plans to study either finance or medicine. He is the son of Cory and Molly Lommel.





## Elf an event

Over 2,700 tickets were sold for five performances of "Elf the Musical" in November. Here are scenes from one of the dress rehearsals before the opening show.





# Partners join DHS for Veterans Day

By Paul Downer  
Communications Coordinator

The annual Veterans Day ceremony at Delano High School included a variety of unique elements this year, including a presentation of the Sgt. Dillon Semolina memorial plaque, a donation to the Delano American Legion by Charter Spectrum and HISTORY (The History Channel), and remarks from keynote speaker Sen. Bruce Anderson.

Another highlight included recognition of Mackenzie Oswell, Lauren Kantrovich and Hannah Kreisch for winning an essay contest focusing on why it is important to recognize veterans. Oswell, the overall winner, read her essay following the announcement of the winners.

"They chose to fight, they said goodbye to their families, and they fought with all they had, even if it meant returning a different person," Oswell wrote. "None of us will ever understand what they went through, but we can look to them and say, 'Thank you for serving.'"

Anderson, himself a retired service member who spent time in the Navy, Minnesota Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, also spoke about the unique experience of veterans.

"Often, veterans feel isolated because their sacrifice is



Members of the Delano American Legion salute after posting the colors to open the annual Veterans Day program.



State Senator Bruce Anderson, a veteran himself, was the keynote speaker for the event.

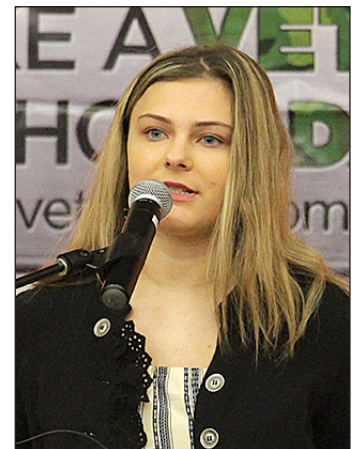
impossible to understand for those who have not endured it themselves," Anderson said. "That's why today is especial-

ly important. Recognizing them and thanking them for their service is your impactful gesture, and goes a long way toward making those patriots feel part of the community, the community of Delano."

In other aspects of the ceremony, Oswell and Caitlyn Bekkala were recognized for participating in Girls State, the Legion baseball team was recognized, and the DHS Wind Ensemble performed.

## Semolina dedication

Eric Gafkjen and U.S. Marine Corporal Jack Gafkjen presented a memorial plaque to Michael and Lisa De La Cruz in honor of Sgt. Dillon Semolina, a 2010 DHS graduate who was killed along with 11 other



Mackenzie Oswell read her essay on honoring vets.

Marines when two helicopters collided during nighttime training maneuvers near Hawaii in 2016.

"Dillon walked the hallways each of you walk each day," Eric Gafkjen told the listening students. "He was a proud member of the Delano football team and played on the same field, for the same coach, as many of you."

After briefly recounting Semolina's service history, Gafkjen said, "Dillon served for our freedoms, for our opportunities, for our future." He concluded by asking students to remember Semolina's sacrifice and service, and to take



A plaque honoring 2010 DHS graduate Dillon Semolina was dedicated during the program.

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# Students of the Month recognized

## October

October Students of the Month at Delano High School were recently recognized for their work in various disciplines.

Those honored included, front row from left, Jake Schultz (social studies), Lucas Johnson (Tiger Way Award), Emma Wolf (language arts), Wyatt Nelson (language arts), and Michael Sword (Tiger Way Award).

In the second row, from left, are Larissa Pietila (physical education), Isabelle King (band), Kiersten Koets (art), Leigh Anderson (Project Lead The Way), Presley Pawelk (music), Faith Tellers (science), Grace Elsen (choir), and Mackenzie Oswell (Triple A-Academics).

In the third row, from left, are Wynn Russek (health), Bridget Sundheim (Tiger Way Award), Josh Skogman (math), Max Otto (athletics), Josh Bersie (industrial tech), Peder Bjorklund (physical education), and Dillion Mrnak (Tiger Way Award).



Students earning awards who are not pictured included Ellie Smith (College in the Schools), Austin Uecker

(business), Amelia Skartvedt (FACS), Hallie Hebner (science), Izzy Johnson (social studies), Evelyn Hackenmiller

(world languages), Samantha Krampf (visual arts), and Lucy Yaeger (math).

## November

November Students of the Month at Delano High School were recently recognized for their work in various disciplines.

Those honored included, front row from left, Mason Henry (physical education), Tate Olson (band), Alex Bart (science), Ashlyn Morsching (health), Lauren Black (math), Oscar Munoz Bello (art), and Caden Zens (Tiger Way Award).

In the second row, from left, are Roman Ostrovsky (Project Lead The Way), Tiara Boiselier (FACS), Amelia Nelson (language arts), Gabriella Stoudt (language arts), Presley Pawelk (Tiger Way Award), Nova Haase (choir), and Ben Cederberg (social studies).

In the third row, from left, are Tyler Winter, (band), Bradyn Addicks (health), Cody Lambert (world languages),



Tad Jurek (industrial technology), Jack Balsiger (Triple A Award), Berit Pape (science), Olivia Jaunich (CIS), and

Samuel Beck-Revering (work seminar).

Students earning awards who are not pictured included Courtney Rajewsky (math),

Karson Trujillo (band), Michael Weber (business), Jacob Noor (physical education), and Sarah Wikman (visual arts).



# Kunkel, Fitzer recognized as leaders

By Paul Downer  
Communications Coordinator

Four staff members from Delano Public Schools received Leaders in Educational Excellence Awards during a ceremony at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud on Wednesday, Oct. 23.

Those honored were DHS media center specialist Monica Kunkel, DES Title 1 teacher Karla Vieau, sixth-grade teacher Sara Potter, and DHS Spanish teacher John Fitzer.



Monica Kunkel

## Monica Kunkel

Since she began her teaching career in 1988, Kunkel has covered a lot of ground and built a wealth of experience in districts big and small. She started her career as a French and English teacher in Ironwood, Michigan, then served as a media specialist for Minneapolis Public Schools, Minnetonka Public Schools, and Breck School. This school year marks Kunkel's 12th in Delano.

"I loved school when I was young and had some really great teachers that I admired," said Kunkel. "One of them was the high school librarian. I was also an avid reader, making use of the bookmobile all summer since we lived 17 miles from the nearest library."

The seeds of her future career were planted in high school when she served as a library aid and discovered the satisfaction of helping others

find tools for learning.

"I found the hunt for difficult-to-find resources to be fun and challenging," said Kunkel. "I knew then that I wanted to be a school librarian when I grew up."

Because school media specialists need their teaching degree, license and at least three years of teaching experience, Kunkel said she pursued an interest in the French language on her way to earning her teaching credentials. She then moved from Michigan's Upper Peninsula to Minneapolis and began her graduate program to become a licensed school media specialist through Mankato State University.

"This award is such an honor because I have been nominated by a colleague who was moved to praise the work I do on a daily basis," said Kunkel. "I look at my fellow award winners and the list of nominees



John Fitzer

and am humbled to be grouped with such amazing educators."

The nomination statement for Kunkel's award cited her active leadership among her colleagues, both on the district technology committee and as the current president of the Delano Teachers Association.

"Monica is constantly looking for new and innovative ways to help our students achieve excellence in all aspects of their lives," said the nomination. "She is a strong leader in her building and throughout the district."

While she is busy in various behind-the-scenes endeavors that shape Delano Public Schools, Kunkel said she derives the most satisfaction from working directly with students.

"My favorite part is connecting a reluctant reader to a book he or she really enjoys," Kunkel said. "I also really enjoy helping students locate resources for

their classroom projects -- the harder the resource is to locate, the more I enjoy it."

## John Fitzer

Fitzer also represented Delano High School at the banquet in his capacity as the 2018-19 Delano Teacher of the Year. He is in his 30th year of teaching at Delano and 34th overall.

"I'm very passionate about what I do. I love what I do. I can't imagine doing anything else," said Fitzer in a Teacher of the Year interview last year. "I don't consider this a job. It's not work to me. I just love being with the kids and seeing their eyes open to new things."

Fitzer said what he enjoys most about his job is seeing students grow up into young adults, and hearing from former students about where they have gone and what they have done after high school.

Teaching has come naturally, as he was the primary organizer for activities in his neighborhood while growing up, and was able to find satisfaction in the success of others.

"I've known I wanted to be a teacher since I was 12 years old," said Fitzer. "It just always felt really good when people succeeded at something and I was able to help with that."

For a more complete feature on Fitzer, see the Teacher of the Year article at [bit.ly/DHSnews-letterFeb19](http://bit.ly/DHSnews-letterFeb19).

## Veterans

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the time to thank other veterans when they have the opportunity.

### Anderson's address

Anderson spent over 30 years in the military, but spoke little of his own experiences during his address.

Instead, Anderson spoke of the service of his father, a World War II veteran, and other family members and acquaintances. He shared the history of Veterans Day and its origins in the armistice that ended

World War I, and emphasized the importance of recognizing the sacrifice of those who do serve.

"We go about our daily lives mowing our yards, running our errands, doing our homework," Anderson said. "We enjoy so many freedoms that others around the world can't even imagine. And most of the time, we don't even give them a second thought."

Anderson challenged those present to make the most of the opportunities they have as a result of the sacrifice of others.

"Today I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on your freedoms, the privilege it is to enjoy your education,

dream for your future, and look forward to all that will one day make this world a better place for all of us to live," he said. "Be wise with the gifts that you've been given. Do not squander your freedom. But rather channel the strength of the men and women who have served and given their lives for you. ...

"I have hope in your generation that you will recognize what we have to lose and continue to fight for it so that all that has been done before you will not be in vain. ... Freedom is not just a word, but a sacrificial treasure given to each one of us this day."



# Aviation class hosts celebrity flyer

**By Paul Downer**  
Communications Coordinator

KDWB radio personality Dave Ryan visited the DHS Aviation class on Friday, Nov. 15, to talk about his own experiences as a private pilot.

"As a pilot, we all have stories," he said. "It's just a matter of finding an audience that wants to hear it."

He also shared memorabilia from his father, a B-24 navigator who survived 50 combat missions in WWII. Items Ryan brought included shrapnel from flak that his father had collected from inside his bomber, and a handwritten account of a near-death experience with anti-aircraft fire.

The account explained that his father had left his usual position in the bomber's nose, and upon his return he found a hole where he normally would have been sitting.

"I'm very lucky that my dad made it back," Ryan said.

Ryan also passed around a number of his father's medals, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, and shared audio from a "runway incursion" that demonstrated the importance of accurate communication at busy airports.

Class instructor Jason Monke explained that he had heard



**Dave Ryan, a KDWB 101.3 radio show host, spoke about his experiences as a pilot on Friday, Nov. 15.**

Ryan discuss flying several times on the radio and decided to email and see if a visit would be possible. Ryan responded that he would enjoy coming to share, and has already indicated that he would be more than willing to return next year as well.

## ***Becoming a pilot***

Ryan told students he began flying about 25 years ago, taking nine months and spending \$5,000 to get his private pilot's license. Influences to begin fly-

ing, he said, included his father, as well as proximity to a small airport at his childhood home, where he enjoyed watching planes take off and land.

Since 1993 Ryan said he has logged about 550 to 600 hours of flight time without any serious mishaps, although he was forced to land quickly at Sauk Centre on one occasion when his engine began to sputter. Ryan said that a misunderstanding on the part of airport personnel resulted in a large emergency response from

fire and police personnel who arrived looking for a crash and were somewhat nonplussed to find him and his plane intact.

## ***Student questions***

Students asked questions about Ryan's favorite types of planes to fly (low-wing models), bird strikes (more common than one might think), and his most unique flying experiences (flying with the Navy's Blue Angels and Air Force's Thunderbird demonstration squadrons).

Ryan said that the Blue Angels fly without G-suits that help compensate for extreme maneuvers, and he experienced tunnel vision from lack of blood flow to the brain while riding along with them.

Students also asked about renting vs. buying a plane, and Ryan said he has always rented, which isn't cheap but eliminates hanger fees and maintenance concerns.

"I had a great time and it was an honor to tell you about my dad's flying experiences and talk about Aviation," Ryan wrote on a Delano Public Schools Facebook post about his visit. "Great group of students! Thank you Mr. Monke for having me!"

# State Patrol to present 'Lasting Impact'

**By Shane Baughman**  
Assistant Principal

On Wednesday, Jan. 8, during our advisory period, Delano High School will partner with the Minnesota State Patrol in a statewide initiative promoting seatbelt usage and overall safety in motor vehicles.

The presentation, titled "Lasting Impact," combines a video and speaking presentation by Trooper Kevin Brisk, and will be presented to students in grades 10-12. 1

The video addresses a tragic



**Shane Baughman**

incident in 2015 that involved students from Triton High School. It was made in cooperation with family members who lost their son, Logan, in the accident. The video examines the impact on the family, school, community and individuals involved.

After the video presentation, Trooper Brisk will provide information and statistics that are relevant to our student drivers.

Delano High School administrators, counselors and the school resource officer have previewed the video and infor-

mation in advance of our student presentation. We believe the presentation is extremely informative and a powerful reminder of the importance of seatbelt usage while in a motor vehicle.

We will have staff on hand to provide any support students may need throughout this valuable learning opportunity. A summary video and article can be found on the Minnesota State Patrol website, or at the following link: <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/msp/Pages/lasting-impact.aspx>.



# Heil

from Page 1

Meetings for incoming students are for those who are new to the registration process and/or have some questions about the course sequences in the various disciplines. It is an overview of the entire registration process.

Earning College Credits in High School is for those students who are seeking ways to maximize their high school experience while earning credits toward their college transcript. We cover many pathways to accomplish credits, and give insight on these pathways. We focus on students who are moving into their sophomore, junior and senior years.

After the meetings on Jan. 13 and 16, advisory meetings are held on Tuesday, Jan. 28, and Thursday, Jan. 30, for all students. In the advisory, students are given registration guides and planning sheets that break down the process by school year.

The planning sheets are collected and students are then pre-registered from 4 to 8 p.m.

on Monday, Feb. 3, during registration conferences.

We hope the start of the winter season is safe and successful for everyone. We look forward to the many events in December and January that allow our students showcase their talents.

## Announcements

### *Book drive to benefit classrooms*

In an effort to bolster classroom libraries, Delano Public Schools will hold a book drive during January conferences and during the month of February, which is "I Love to Read Month."

What can be donated? New or gently used books that are appropriate for K-8 students; books that are classics, are well-loved, or have a copyright date of 2010 or later; or money for book bins and shelves to support classroom libraries.

Why are donations needed? Research indicates that K-8 classrooms should have about 350 books within each room to support a literature-rich experience for young readers. This year's literacy initiative, and the adoption of the new K-4 language arts curriculum, rely heavily on this concept.

### *School closing information*

School may be closed for the day, started late or dismissed early due to weather conditions, emergencies, utility outages or other conditions that threaten the health and/or safety of our students and staff.

Families will be notified by the school district's instant parent contact system for emergency school closings. The following news media outlets will also be notified: WCCO 4 TV, KSTP 5 TV, KMSP 9 TV and KARE 11 TV.

Families are encouraged to have a plan in place for their students when emergency closings, late starts or early dismissals occur. Watch for calendar changes and possible make-up days due to school closings communicated via school publications, Skylert parent emails, phone calls, the district website, Facebook and Twitter.

If you would like to receive a text message, you must set this option up in your family access account. Log into your account and on the left, click on Skylert. You can list your phone number under "Text Message Numbers" and check the categories for which you want this option applied. Then click "Save."

### *Seasonal safety reminders*

As ice, snow and cold weather arrive, please remember to drive safely and attentively through campus. Walkers and bikers should only cross Tiger Drive at the ice rink or tennis courts where a

crossing guard is on duty. No crossings should occur at County Road 30.

While facilities staff work to keep sidewalks cleared during winter weather, remember to use the "penguin shuffle" to avoid falls, and beware of ice that may be concealed beneath thin layers of snow.

### *Holiday Boutique on Dec. 7*

Delano Community Education is hosting a Holiday Boutique from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Community Education gym during Delano's Old Fashioned Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 7. Admission is free, and the event features unique and local hand-made gifts. Additional vendors are welcome and can contact Dawn Hilgers at dawn.hilgers@delanoschools.org. Vendors can begin setting up at 8 a.m.

### *Enjoy Jazzy Christmas Dec. 8*

All are invited to the Jazzy Christmas concert at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8, in the DHS Performing Arts Center. The show features the high school jazz bands, as well as the Sound Revolution vocal ensemble, which will present a variety of seasonal music.

Following the show, the music boosters are hosting a potluck that all are invited to attend. Parents from the music boosters and the performing groups will provide items to share.

### *Legislative forum on Dec. 10*

All are invited to join teachers, legislators, school administrators and parents for a legislative forum/listening session at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10, in the Delano High School Tiger Den (old media center). The subject is proposed legislation for gifted students that addresses issues of equity, equality and economics. The legislation would triple current funding for gifted services.

Bill Keilty, Ed.D., president of the Minnesota Educators of the Gifted and Talented Foundation, and who also teaches at Hamline University, will moderate the session. According to Keilty, the legislation would benefit all students and has gained bi-partisan support from over 50 legislators who recognize that skills mandated in the legislation would positively impact student achievement.

All are welcome to attend to learn more about the legislation and steps that can be collectively undertaken. The session is scheduled to end at 8:30 p.m.

This e-newsletter is published by District Communications Coordinator Paul Downer. Contact Paul at 763.972.3365, x1911, or paul.downer@delanoschools.org. Delano High School is located at 700 Elm Avenue E. in Delano. For more information, see [www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us), or find Delano Public Schools on Facebook and Twitter.

