



Tiger Territory

Delano High School Newsletter February 2020

At a glance

Page 2

Teacher of the Year

Page 3

Wellness winners

Student surveys

Page 4

Jingle Run

Page 5

One act play

Page 6

Triple "A" winners

Page 7

Honor band, choir

Awareness day

Pennies for Patients

Page 8

7-8 honor choir

Health update

Student awards

Page 9

Support staff awards

Page 10

State Patrol visit

Page 11

Choir concert

Announcements

Dates to remember

February

- 1.....Sadies dance, 8-11 p.m.
- 3.....Conferences, 4-8 p.m.
(Gr. 8-11 registration, Gr. 7-8
parent-teacher conferences)
- 10.....HS PIE, 6 p.m.
- 12.....DHS blood drive
- 12.....Winter Activity Day, Gr. 7-8
- 10-13.....Winterfest week
- 14.....Workshop day, no school
- 17.....Presidents Day, no school
- 18...Gr. 9-12 choir concert, 7 p.m.
- 19.....Two-hour late start
- 24.....Conferences, 4-8 p.m.
- 27.....Suicide Prevention Day



Seasonal singers

Members of Sound Revolution serenaded the crowd during the Jingle Run just before winter break on Friday, Dec. 20. See more photos from the event on Page 4.

Service dog coming to DHS

By Dr. Steven Heil
Principal
and Lora Voight
Special Education

Delano High School plans to welcome Kenai (Kē - nī) to our school.

He is a 1-year-old, hypoallergenic, certified therapy dog intended to serve students in need. He is 25 percent Bernese Mountain Dog and 75 percent poodle. Kenai and his trainer, special-education teacher Lora Voight, recently completed the certification Therapy Dog test and Canine Good Citizen test, which prepares him for service.

Dogs such as Kenai have been effectively incorporat-



Dr. Steven Heil

ed into school and therapy settings and provide benefits for students and staff in need. Research from Charlotte's

Litter, PAWS for People, National Institutes of Health, and the Alliance of Therapy Dogs identifies the holistic benefits of therapy dogs.

Physical benefits

- Improves physical well-being.
- Increases positive mood and mindset.
- Increases levels of serotonin and dopamine.
- Lowers stress and blood pressure levels.

Social benefits

- Boosts self-esteem.
- Provides focused

See Heil
Page 9

Koets named Teacher of the Year

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Pursing his passion for music has led Jason Koets to a career that perfectly harmonizes his interests and aptitudes.

In recognition of the Delano High School band director's outstanding work with students, his fellow faculty members have named Koets the Delano Public Schools 2019-20 Teacher of the Year.

A nomination statement from a fellow teacher praised Koets for building a strong band program in the high school.

"His dedication and enthusiasm shines through preparing his students to be all things musical," the nomination said. "His tireless service, transforming unmitigated noise into melodically synched musical notes, speaks volumes of his teacher craft and dedication."

Koets said he greatly appreciates the respect of his peers across the district, but that the honor is ultimately a reflection on his pupils and the other teachers who have given them the skills needed to succeed as musicians.

"Winning this award lets me know that there are people who see what I'm doing and what the music department is doing, which feels good," Koets said. "But I can't take all the credit for what the students are doing, because there are teachers out there who taught kids how to count and deal with fractions, and other music teachers who taught them to read the rhythms and the pitches and all the things we deal with in music. There are speech pathologists who have worked with some kids so they can make the proper 'T' sound in their instruments. So it's really a collaborative effort here."

Choosing music

After 22 years as a band director, including the last 15 in Delano where Koets has taught students from fifth grade



Here, band director Jason Koets plays tuba with the pep band at the state basketball tournament in 2018.

through 12th grade, it might be difficult to imagine him doing anything else. But teaching was not part of Koets' original plan.

After his 1991 graduation from high school in Pipestone, where he played the tuba and was a three-sport athlete in football, wrestling and tennis, Koets set course for Bemidji State University and its industrial tech program.

Midway through his sophomore year of college, however, it became clear to Koets that he needed to change directions.

"Music was just my thing," he said. "I realized that I wasn't in the shop room as much as I should have been. Instead, I was performing with all these small ensembles and with the band in the music department. That's when I sort of realized it was a switch I needed to make."

It wasn't an easy transition

– "of course there weren't any classes or credits that really transferred from one program to the other," Koets said with a laugh – but he persevered and graduated in 1997.

He taught for seven years in Rocori before coming to Delano, which has been his professional home since 2005. Why has he stayed?

"We just have a different type of student, consistently, year after year," Koets said. "They are super smart kids. And there is a really high quality staff here. Every teacher we hire is a quality teacher."

Job highlights

Unlike most other staff members, music teachers get to see students year-round.

"It's a really unique position, in any school, to be a band director," said Koets. "I get to

see the students every single day, all year. It's really interesting watching them develop as people. And you develop some strong relationships with some of the students too."

Before the recent building project moved fifth and sixth grade to the intermediate school, Koets typically taught fifth grade band as well as the upper-level high school ensembles.

"I really enjoyed teaching the fifth-graders because a lot of it was new information to them," Koets said. "That was the year they learned the most."

An annual highlight came around the middle of October when the young musicians honked and squeaked their way through "Hot Crossed Buns" for the first time.

"That's the first recognizable piece of music. Every year when we'd finish that song the kids would cheer and stand up and high-five each other and just be super excited because they made music," Koets said. "That's the best part."

After the reconfiguration of grades Koets has taught grades 7-12, along with the pep band and marching bands, while Mike Dailey has taught grades five and six, along with the jazz bands.

Teaching philosophy

Over the years Koets has honed his teaching approach to emphasize skills in his students that apply to studying for other subjects, and will eventually translate to the workplace.

"The process matters more than the product," he said. "I decided that I needed to teach students not just about music, but about practice and the process of learning. That's really where what I do in the classroom means just as much as what students do in math or English or science or any of the other subjects that are tested."

Since music is not tested

See Koets
Page 10



Wellness winners

The DHS Wellness Committee has begun recognizing students for making positive choices in the areas of physical activity, nutrition and mental health (including acts of kindness for oneself or others). Students nominated for prizes in December included Aubrey Barnes, Miranda Wagner, Tad Jurek, Kallon O'Neill, Iain Lee, Josh Bersie, Bridget Sundheim, Edward Hajas, Matt Baker, Kaitlyn Pink and Jackson Raskob.



January honorees

Students nominated for wellness prizes in January included Aiden Monke, Lucia Millard, Grant Smith, Maria Molitor, Audie Marsh, Nick Antonicelli, Katie Black, Amy Snell and Nicole Bravo.

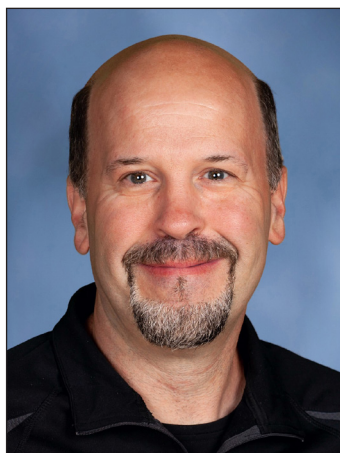
Student surveys coming on March 4

University of Michigan, youth tobacco studies scheduled

By Steve Schaubberger
Assistant Principal

Greetings, from Delano High School! It is wonderful to see our students, parents and staff back at school after the winter break. Although the weather may be cold, things are heating up with a variety of activities, including final exams, Winter Activity Day (on Wednesday, Feb. 12, for grades 7-8) and a few upcoming anonymous student surveys.

The first student survey is the annual University of Michigan Survey for 10th graders only, which is tentatively set for Wednesday, March 4. This survey covers a variety of areas, including academics, mental health, and risky behaviors. Copies of the survey will be available for any parents who wish to preview the survey be-



Steve Schaubberger

fore their student participates.

The second student survey is the National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS), sponsored by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This survey will also be taken on Wednesday, March 4, by four randomly selected

9-12 Social Studies classroom sections.

Questions regarding that survey can be directed to the CDC telephone number that will be provided in a letter. Both surveys will deliver a parent information and consent/opt out letter to families of participants.

Wellness update

Finally, the DHS Student Wellness Committee is looking for students in grades 7-12 to serve as members of this important group that meets once per month. Please encourage your child to join and make an impact in the areas of school nutrition, health education, and in planning activities that are focused on physical and mental well-being at our school. If you have any questions, please contact me at

763-972-3365, ext. 1703.

The District-Wide Student Wellness Committee, comprised of adult community members, parents and staff, is

The Wellness Committee, which includes parents, is seeking new members.

also looking for members. We will meet once this year in late April or May, and two times per year thereafter. We really need to have new members join. Please contact me at the number above if you are interested.

Thank you for being a partner in your student's total school experience. *Together, we are better!*



Jingle Run joy

Delano High School students hustled into the winter break with the annual Jingle Run on Friday, Dec. 20. The event included the traditional foot race, an ugly sweater contest for both students and staff, a blindfolded present wrapping contest, jazz music, caroling, and more.



One act play has strong showing

By Paul Downer

Communications Coordinator

Delano's one act play, "I Will Go ... I Will Go ..." did not advance to the section finals, but it came as close as it possibly could have.

Competing against five other schools at least twice the size of DHS in subsection competition on Saturday, Delano missed advancing by a single point.

Rogers took first with six points, Anoka was second with seven points and Andover was third with eight points.

Delano took fourth place with nine points (earning a first-place ranking from one judge and fourth-place rankings from the other two judges), followed by Osseo and Maple Grove at 15 points apiece.

DHS language arts teacher and play director Joe Lawrence said that larger schools typically have larger budgets and more experienced junior and senior actors who specialize in drama.

"We are the *only* school who put freshmen and first-timers on the stage yesterday," said Lawrence in an email to his cast and crew. "(I know this because I asked the other directors). The kids from the schools we performed with yesterday specialize in drama. And our show was just as good as theirs. That says something about Delano Drama."

A unique show

Lawrence said Delano's little-known one act carries a big message.

"I've never seen a high school do it," he said. "I wanted to pick a show that nobody else has done."

Lawrence said the play's obscurity is likely due to its difficulty, because its material is compelling.

"The writing is phenomenal," he said. "As much of a challenge as it is, I thought it would be fun to try to make something this esoteric work in



From left, Annemarie Steinberg, Lila Ford, Hunter Elwood, Piper Eagle and Sydney Wuerger perform a scene from "I Will Go ... I Will Go ..."



Sullivan, played by John Lahlum, and Grace, played by Sophie Stevens, have a falling out.

a high school setting with high school kids."

The play tells the fictionalized story of Henry Sullivan, the first American to swim across the English Channel in 1923, and the sacrifices he made to achieve that feat. In his preoccupation with preparing for the swim Sullivan lost the love of his life, and during the swim itself Sullivan lost his hearing.

"It's a tragedy about people

with misplaced priorities," said Lawrence. "It examines the 'win-at-all-costs' mindset. This guy was the first American to swim the English Channel, but nobody remembers him, and he lost a whole lot in this single-minded pursuit of something he thought would change the world."

Sophomore John Lahlum played the role of Sullivan, and said the responsibility of portraying a historical character in

a drama is much different than the comedic approach found in Delano's recent musicals.

"It's definitely a good learning opportunity," he said prior to the performance. "I'm taking a lot more away from this than I thought I would. The one act is Acting 101. This is what real actors do."

Lawrence explained that the production required a different approach than a typical school show, but that his cast and crew had the skills to make it work.

"It's dramatic acting," he said. "It's much artsier. They need to use shadow and light and fabric and music to tell a story. It's a lot of work to be able to find the nuance in the character, so it's a big challenge for our actors. But we have kids who I knew could pull off the lead roles, which are normally cast for adults."

• *This is an abridged version of an article covering the one act play. For more comments from the actors, photos and complete coverage, see www.delano.k12.mn.us.*

Molitor, Kraus are Triple “A” winners

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

It can be challenging enough to earn separate successes in the classroom, on the stage or in athletic competition, so it takes a special student to excel in all three arenas at once.

Two such Delano seniors were recently named the school's 2019-20 Triple “A” Award winners. The award is a Minnesota State High School League honor that recognizes students who excel in arts, academics and athletics.

Maria Molitor and Jon Kraus both said they were both surprised at the honor, though their interests and activities certainly cover the full spectrum of student life.

“It feels good to be recognized for everything that you do,” said Molitor.

Maria Molitor

Molitor, the daughter of Ken and Tami Molitor of Delano, has been a familiar face on stage during Delano High School drama productions in recent years, and also held down the No. 1 singles spot on the varsity tennis team over the past three seasons. She has served as a captain of both the tennis and track teams.

“I’ve learned you can be competitive, have grit and still play with grace,” Molitor wrote in an essay as part of her Triple “A” application.

Her tennis coach, Kim Finn, agreed that Molitor had a rare ability to strike that balance.

“Maria is one of the best leaders that I have had in my 21 years of coaching,” Finn said in a letter of recommendation. “She knows when to step up and take the lead. Her communication skills are impressive for a teenager. Whatever she puts her mind to, she gets it done. Maria is a hard worker and will continually want to improve on whatever she is doing.”

In the classroom, Molitor has earned a weighted grade



Maria Molitor and Jon Kraus have been named Delano's Triple 'A' Award winners for 2019-20.

point average of 3.94 while taking multiple Advanced Placement and College in the Schools courses. She has enjoyed challenging herself in math and science courses, but said some of her favorite classes have included human geography and choir, including the select ensemble Sound Revolution.

“I love choir class,” she said. “It’s not like a sports team, but you kind of have that same dynamic where you can trust everyone in your class and it’s like your family. You get to do something you’re really passionate about and you work together to create music.”

Molitor has been involved in theater since third grade, and most recently played prominent roles in “The Complete Works of William Shakespeare [Abridged]” and “Elf.” Outside of school she has even started her own entertainment business that involves compiling and creating her own songs, trivia, props and music. Another artistic accomplishment included placing second with an original story for children in a national competition.

How does she manage to excel in all areas?

“Don’t procrastinate,” she said with a laugh. “I like to plan and set goals for the next day to get done.”

While Molitor has not yet chosen a college for next fall, she plans to pursue a degree in communications and perhaps seek out work in event management.

“I’m excited about the future, and I plan on being a collegiate athlete,” Molitor wrote in an essay as part of her Triple “A” application. “Arts, academics and athletics have shown me nothing is impossible and to believe in my abilities. I am thankful for the opportunity to be challenged in all three areas of my life and flourish as a person here at DHS.”

Jon Kraus

Kraus is the son of Mark and Sherri Kraus of Independence. While taking Advanced Placement and numerous College in the Schools courses, he has managed to maintain a 4.0 GPA in addition to his participation in various activities.

His work with the robotics

program is particularly notable. Kraus helped form a team that earned a rookie all-star award and competed in the world competition, and he has also been a semi-finalist for the FIRST Robotics dean’s list the past two years.

“Robotics ... has provided learning experiences including marketing, community outreach, budgeting, design, team building, problem solving, as well as applying technology to solve problems,” Kraus said in his Triple “A” application.

A specific example of technical know-how outside of robotics came when Kraus developed a camera and monitor system for a cyclist who was blind in one eye to improve safety and help the cyclist see both sides of their surroundings.

“This project piqued my interest in the field of human impact and not just the technicalities of how things work,” Kraus wrote in his Triple “A” application. “Identifying a problem, researching a solution and creating new ideas to help real people with real problems ignites my passion to make a difference.”

Kraus also competes as a member of the soccer team in the fall, serves as a manager for the hockey team, and performs as a member of both the band and the choir.

“I have pretty diverse interests, so the things I do are kind of spread across everything,” Kraus said.

Math teacher Amanda Weinandt wrote a letter of recommendation for Kraus, drawing on their work together in the classroom and through Student Council.

“Jon is always prepared for class and works hard to really comprehend the concepts,” Weinandt wrote. “He asks quality questions when unsure of the concepts, searching for a better understanding of the

See Triple A
Page 10



Wright County Conference Honor Choir and Honor Band members performed on Saturday, Jan. 11, at New Prague High School. Delano musicians included, from left, band members Karson Trujillo, Niklas Bjorklund, Victoria Shafer, Owen Dailey and Maddie Meland; and choir members Stephanie McClelland, Logan Shaffner, Samantha Munson, Lauren Kantrovich, Brody Paul and Hayden Lynch.

Music masters

At right, Delano representatives in the Concordia Honor Choir in Moorhead on Saturday, Jan. 25, were, from left, Autumn Langdon, Grace Schaust, Logan Shaffner, Cheyanne Kozell, Lauren Kantrovich and Stephanie McClelland.



Pennies for Patients launches Feb. 10

After a record-setting 2019 in which Delano High School raised \$10,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the 7-12 Student Council is once again organizing its Pennies for Patients drive.

The school has set a goal of \$11,000 to aid in the research of blood cancers and to support families as they go through their blood cancer journey. This will be Delano's 17th year of participation.

Student Council is planning activities from Feb. 10 through March 20, and has set aside March 17-18 for the Flash 48 competition. All students will compete to see whose class can earn at least \$250 in online donations.



Student Council members tally up the results of the Pennies for Patients drive last spring. The \$10,002.52 raised was a new school record.

Suicide awareness day is Feb. 27

Delano High School will hold its annual Suicide Prevention and Awareness Day on Thursday, Feb. 27.

The event is organized by DHS social worker Marie Techam, School Within a School teacher Shallyn Tordeur, and the COMPASS class.

Events include an appearance by speaker Joe Beckman, who will encourage students to "Create Chains of Human Connection."

"Loneliness is at an all-time high, human connection is at an all-time low. The consequences of this have never been felt more in our schools," said Techam. "The solution is to create chains of human connection so that when people feel as if they're drowning and completely alone, we can bring them back to the shore. Isolation and loneliness in teens can lead to depression, and unfortunately, suicide. Delano High School is committed to helping each child within our school feel safe, happy and valuable as a member of our school community."

Beckman will speak three times during the day to students in grades 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12.

"Mental health awareness is a crucial element to all schools," said Techam. "Depression and anxiety are increasing in our teenage population and that puts them at greater risk for suicidal thoughts. We want to be sure to properly educate our students on how to help themselves or someone they care about."

Students can also receive bracelets with the Suicide Crisis Line phone number, information on signs and symptoms of depression and how to get help, and more.

For more on Beckman, see <https://joebeckman.com/>.

Singers chosen for ACDA honor choir

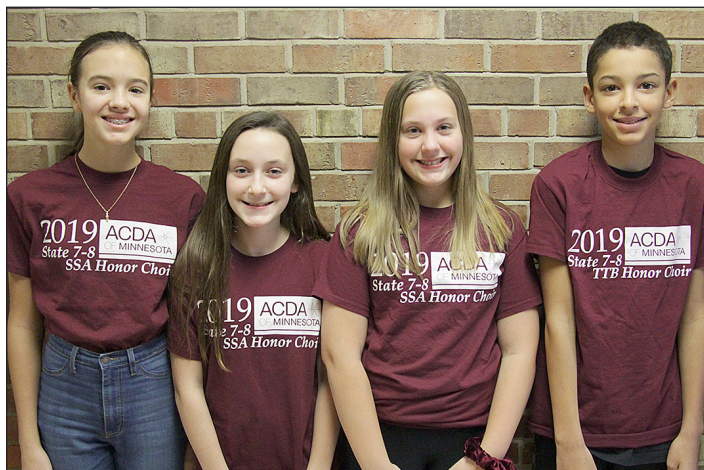
By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Four singers from Delano High School were rewarded for their talent and hard work with placement on the American Choral Directors Association-MN 7-8 honor choir earlier this year.

Seventh-graders Jane Poll and Lauren Black, along with eighth-graders Kiersten Koets and Sean Wissbroecker, spent a full day Saturday, Nov. 16, in Mahtomedi rehearsing at the high school before an evening concert at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church.

"The final result is always the best, when you're on stage and the music is so pretty with the echoes," said Poll, who performed as a member of the alto section.

Koets, who sang Soprano 1 along with Black, said the opportunity to see all the parts



From left, Kiersten Koets, Lauren Black, Jane Poll and Sean Wissbroecker performed with the honor choir.

fall into place for the final show after a long day of working out the details was gratifying.

"I think when you first hear all the music together it's really amazing because we're all mixed," Koets said. "There was this one song, 'Johnny Said No,' and it made no sense when

you were practicing it because the rhythms were so syncopated, but then you heard it with other people and it all finally made sense and it sounded really good."

Delano High School Choir Director Eric Conway said the ACDA organizes seven honor

choirs each year spanning grades 4-10. About 2,400 singers audition for those choirs on an annual basis, and only about 940, or just under 40 percent, are accepted.

"So to get into this is really, really awesome," said Conway. "Each 7-8 choir had about 150 kids in it, so to make state in singing is quite the honor."

Conway added that each of Delano's singers had earned their way to the select stage.

"They all do a really good job. They work hard and come prepared. It's what you want in your students," he said.

Wissbroecker, a tenor, said he enjoyed practicing and preparing for the concert, and the others added that they enjoyed the challenge of performing difficult music.

The directors were Nicole Thietje of New Prague High School and Melanie Kjellberg of Andover High School.

Health update

By Belinda Krysan
DHS Nurse

Hello from the high school health office! We hope that everyone is having a happy and healthy start to the new year! Winter months can be long and full of illness. We have seen many different symptoms, and the No. 1 way to stop the spread of germs is to wash hands with soap and water.

Many kids come in to school when they need to stay home to stop the spread of the illness. For high school students it is especially important to rest when having symptoms. This includes turning cell phones off to rest your body, and drinking plenty of water.

Please call us at 763-972-7601 ext. 1720 if you have any questions or concerns!

Monthly Triple A Winners

December



Arts-Owen Dailey



Athletics-Rileigh Martin



Academics-Chloe Kuechle

January



Arts-Hayden Lynch



Athletics-Grace Glasrud



Academics-Collin Sevigny

Three earn education support awards

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Three staff members from Delano Public Schools recently received Education Support Staff Awards from Resource Training & Solutions during a recognition banquet in Sartell.

Food service director Kris Larson, high school IT coordinator Michael Patterson, and intermediate school Alternative Delivery of Specialized Instructional Services (ADSIS) paraprofessional Stephanie Schreyer were nominated by Delano district staff members and chosen from a field of candidates to receive the honors.

Note: The feature on Schreyer is included in the intermediate school's February Tiger Tracks newsletter.

Kris Larson

Larson is in her 25th year with Delano Public Schools. After moving to Delano in 1984, she worked at Edie Mae's for four years, followed by eight years at local nursing homes before she joined the district in 1995.

"I really am humbled by this honor," said Larson, adding that while she loves many aspects of her job, opportunities to interact with students are her favorite. Larson often gathers student feedback and



Kris Larson

suggestions in regard to school meals, and enjoys supporting students in their activities.

"Our students do not realize how lucky they are to have Kris Larson as the food service director," a nomination statement from a fellow co-worker said. "She goes above and beyond to get the best food for our kids. ... This spring she took the suggestions of the students and tried numerous food items at their request. She is always aiming to please, and you will never see her without a smile on her face!"

Larson said that engagement comes naturally.

"When you feed kids for lunch and sometimes breakfast for a few years, you get to know many of them person-



Michael Patterson

ally. They become a special part of my life," Larson said. "Yes, I get pretty attached. The many regulations and required documentation takes a lot of my time and energy these days - much more than when I started - but the students make it worthwhile."

Michael Patterson

Patterson is in his second year with Delano Public Schools, having previously worked for Apple and human resource company ADP.

"My work experience at these two companies has greatly helped me in my current role, especially (in) communicating technical terminology to others in simple language," he said.

The Chicago native has enjoyed the chance to meet co-workers around the district and serve their technology needs since moving to Minnesota. His focus on service has not gone unnoticed.

"Michael ... has been amazing," said a nomination written by a co-worker. "He responds in a very timely manner and is able to resolve issues. If something comes up that needs to be addressed immediately, he is willing to respond quickly. He has been a great addition to our IT team!"

A second nomination agreed.

"Michael is the best! He is so attentive to the needs of others and is ready and willing whenever you need him," the nomination said. "He is incredibly helpful and has been a wonderful addition to our IT department."

Patterson said the award was a complete surprise.

"I didn't expect this recognition at all, and honestly, I didn't know about it until one of my peers congratulated me," he said. "I am thankful to the Lord for this honor, and I am humbled to receive this award alongside Stephanie and Kris. It certainly motivates me to continue to serve and help in any way possible."

Heil

from Page 1

interaction between students and teachers.

- Eases social isolation.
- Helps students learn social skills.

Emotional, cognitive and mental health benefits

- Decreases symptoms of anxiety and depression.
- Provides nonjudgmental companionship for teens experiencing trauma or isolation.
- Stimulates memory and



Kenai

problem-solving skills.

- Improves mood, focus and

overall engagement in academics and co-curricular activities.

Optional service

Parents may communicate about whether they want their child to interact with Kenai and to what extent. No student will be required to interact with Kenai, and we will ask that all students treat him as they would treat any service animal.

Asking permission is a key safety measure, both for Kenai and those who interact with him. Students must ask to pet Kenai, and Ms. Voight must respond affirmatively before they pet him. Kenai likes to

smell a closed fist before being scratched under the chin. He should be in the "sit" or "down" position before greeting students or staff.

Parents may communicate about whether they want their child to interact with Kenai.

Thank you for understanding the positive and important benefits that a therapy dog will provide to students who need this support.

State Patrol highlights seat belt use

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

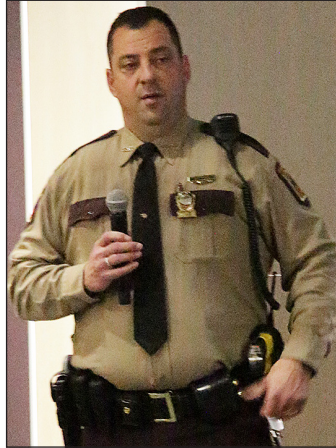
While the importance of using seat belts behind the wheel is well documented, Delano High School students in grades 10-12 received a powerful reminder from the Minnesota State Patrol on Wednesday, Jan. 8.

Trooper Kevin Brisk visited the school to present a video, "Lasting Impact," that the state patrol produced in the aftermath of a crash that killed an 18-year-old Triton student in 2015.

"It's our goal to get out to all the high schools in the state of Minnesota to show this video," said Brisk at the start of the presentation.

Students were told prior to the screening that if the video struck too close to home they were welcome to leave the room or speak with school counselors or social workers who were on hand.

The video featured interviews with family members, friends and Triton school officials, as well as photos of



Trooper Kevin Brisk presented at DHS on Jan. 8.

the damaged vehicle and the funeral of crash victim Logan Maas.

In the incident, Maas and three friends were driving over the crest of a rural hill at high speed to create a roller-coaster sensation. On a third and final pass, the three passengers decided to take their seatbelts off before the driver lost control and all three passengers were ejected.

"I turned around to check on everybody, and there was

nobody in the car with me," the teen driver said in the video.

Maas' father said his son's death was entirely preventable because Logan, a member of the fire department's explorer program, had witnessed firsthand the importance of seat belt use and certainly knew better than to ride in a vehicle without one.

"It takes one second for your entire life to change, and once that second is done you can't go back," the driver said in the video. "I don't think you can go through something like that and not have it follow you the rest of your life."

Following the screening, Brisk answered a few questions from students and presented information and statistics regarding motor vehicle safety. He said the primary challenges facing teen drivers include inexperience, distractions, speeding and a propensity to take risks. He also encouraged drivers to take responsibility for their passengers.

"The driver should not start the vehicle until everyone is buckled," Brisk said, noting

that proper seat belt use can reduce the risk of fatal injuries to front-seat passengers by 45 percent. "Wearing a seat belt is the easiest thing you can do to prevent being injured or killed."

Brisk also said that drivers under age 21 can lose their license if any amount of alcohol is detected in their system while they are behind the wheel, and clarified laws regarding cell phone use in a vehicle.

DHS Principal Dr. Steve Heil said that Delano's location on the Highway 12 corridor, and the regular challenges associated with winter driving in Minnesota, made the presentation an important message for students.

"A seat belt is something so simple, yet so effective in preventing serious injury or death," he said. "I hope this presentation provides for some conversation between parents and children, and the greater community, on the importance of seat belt wearing and being safe behind the wheel. Logan's father is correct - these types of tragedies can be prevented."

Koets

from Page 2

by the state in the same way other subjects are, how does Koets articulate the value of a musical education?

"Not to put it just in musical terms, but broaden it out to humanities - those STEM subjects aren't teaching us about ourselves as humans," Koets said. "You have to have those humanities classes. Not every student is going to be reached in the same way. Some might be reached through the literary arts. Some might be reached through the industrial arts, or FACS. It's about finding out who you are, what your likes are, what your emotions mean, how you fit into humanity."

The bottom line is that not

everything that is valuable is easily quantified in test scores and proficiency graphs.

"I can tell you that there are students who are better off in life because they are taking music classes or theater or whatever it might be," Koets said. "I don't necessarily have data to prove it, but we all know that's the case."

Outside of school

When not on the podium, Koets can be found playing tuba for the Buffalo Community Orchestra, trombone for the West Metro Jazz Band, or with various other ensembles.

He lives in Watertown with his wife Penny, a music teacher at Annandale Elementary, and their two children. Cole (10th grade) and Kiersten (eighth grade) are both students at Delano High School.

Triple A

from Page 6

material. He strives for the very best and is not satisfied with anything less."

Kraus said math and science are his favorite subjects.

"Calculus is pretty interesting for me because it gives you the ability to apply certain things in the real world," he said. "Psychology is also interesting because it gives you a better understanding of how people behave and interact with each other."

Like Molitor, Kraus said the key to succeeding in numerous areas at once is focus and time management.

"It's just about working hard in everything that you're passionate about - being committed," he said.

In the years ahead Kraus plans to study in the University of Minnesota's College of Science and Engineering. Biomedical engineering or computer science are degree areas he may pursue.

Weinandt said Kraus has the make-up to succeed in his future endeavors.

"I have witnessed Jon volunteer to help the school and community. I have trusted him with tasks that impact the entire student body, and I have seen him go out of his way to help others," she wrote. "Jon Kraus is an exceptional student and person."

Kraus said his development is due to many of the opportunities he has had in Delano.

"The three As have shaped my life and made me who I am today," he said.

Music month

The seventh- and eighth-grade choirs performed their concert on Thursday, Dec. 5. Here, members of the eighth-grade choir sing to accompaniment by director Sandy Meyerson.

December was a busy month of performances in the Performing Arts Center. The next high school choir concert is on Tuesday, Feb. 18, and the next high school band concert is on Monday, March 2.



Announcements

Blood drive arrives Feb. 12

Delano High School, in cooperation with the American Red Cross, is hosting a blood drive on Wednesday, Feb. 12, from 8 to 11 a.m. Students 16 years and older are eligible to donate, but those under age 17 must have parental consent (forms are available for students to pick up ahead of time). All donors must meet height and weight requirements. Any questions regarding eligibility can be directed to the American Red Cross donor services at 866-236-3276.

Donors should drink extra water the week before donation and eat a good breakfast the day of donation. Athletes will be able to participate in their practices the day of donation. All donors must bring a photo ID or blood donor card to check-in for donation.

Clothing, book giveaway Feb. 13

Free clothing is available to all families with children ages 0-18 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 13, at Zion Lutheran Church in Buffalo, located at 1200 Hwy. 25 S. The Blessing Closet will offer many new and slightly used clothing items for kids and their parents with no restrictions, qualifications or requirements. Free books will also be available. Everyone is welcome.

Book drive to benefit classrooms

In an effort to bolster classroom libraries, Delano Public Schools will hold a book drive during 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.

Jessy's Toy Box drive continues

The collection drive for Jessy's Toy Box, started by DIS student Kimberly Rogers, will continue until Friday, Feb. 7.

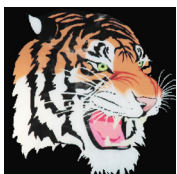
Jessy's Toy Box is a charitable non-profit that gathers toys, gift cards and other items and delivers them to hospitals for children age 0-18 to help brighten their day. It is named for Jessy Haberman of Wyndmere, North Dakota, who was born with health challenges that required him to undergo 15 surgeries, including two open heart surgeries, before he died at 8 years old in 2018.

Haberman was a family friend to Rogers, who has decided to make sure the movement continues. Items can be dropped off at the Delano High School office. See the district website for details.

Seasonal safety reminders

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.



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, or find Delano Public Schools on Facebook and Twitter.

