

DHS Senior Joseph Thomas Honored for Community Service



Joseph Thomas, a senior at Delano High School, recently received Volunteer of the Year from The Prudential Spirit of Community Award program. This event is sponsored by Prudential Financial and the

National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). This program recognizes outstanding community service by young Americans. Joseph earned this award because he volunteered to spearhead a project that brought the spirit and joy of Christmas to residents of a nursing home who had no family to help celebrate the holiday. Joseph is now eligible for the Minnesota Youth Volunteer of the Year awards. Two state honorees, one middle level and one high school will be named in February. Each will receive a \$1,000 award, a silver medallion and a trip to Washington D.C., for recognition ceremonies next May. NASSP Executive Director Gerald Tirozzi said, "These Honorees practice a lesson we hope all young people, as well as adults, will emulate - that volunteering within the community is an essential part of one's life."

Truth in Taxation Hearing Rules Change

Truth in Taxation Hearing

One of the changes the legislature made in the last session was how school districts conduct Truth in Taxation Hearings. These hearings were typically held this time of the year. The legislature eliminated the requirement of a separate meeting and the required advertisement in an effort to reduce school district costs.

What is in place now is that the school district, at a regularly scheduled meeting, shall have an item on the agenda relating to the discussion of the budget and levy and the public must be allowed to speak to this topic. This item will be on the regular meeting agenda of the school board on December 21 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Delano Middle School Media Center.

The levy for all funds, the General Fund, Community Service and General Debt Service, is proposed to increase by \$147,380 from 5,303,904 to 5,451,285 for taxes payable in 2010. This represents a 2.7% increase overall.

Open Enrollment

The deadline to participate in Minnesota's Enrollment Options Program (Open Enrollment) is January 15, 2010 for the 2010-2011 school year.

The school board has limited open enrollment, in accordance with state law, to one percent of the total enrollment in each grade level, which equated to two students per grade level, except in kindergarten. In kindergarten an enrollment cap has been set at 160 students. It is expected that this will allow in kindergarten students who already have siblings enrolled in grades 1-12.

It is the school boards desire to control enrollment levels in view of the fact that all buildings are over capacity. Applications for the Enrollment Options Program are available in the superintendent's office.

I wish everyone associated with Delano Public Schools a very happy new year.

- John M. Sweet

Superintendent

<http://suptslog.blogspot.com/>

Patriot's Pen Essay Contest Winners Announced at Veteran's Day Program

Patriot's Pen, a youth-essay writing contest is a nationwide competition that gives students in grades 6-8 the opportunity to write essays expressing their views on democracy. This year's theme was, "When is the Right Time to Honor Our Military Heroes?" There were over 100 entrants from Delano Middle School and three finalists were chosen. During the Veteran's Day program at Delano High School, each finalist was presented with a flag, a savings bond, and a framed certificate. Third place was awarded to 7th



grader, Mary Schumacher, 2nd place to 7th grader Kalley Johnson, and 1st place to 8th grader Derek Prok, who is pictured with Mr. Walter Grotz, a WWII Veteran and POW. The awards were presented by Commander Mike Christensen of the VFW Post 1901 in Montrose.

The Patriot's Pen program is designed to foster patriotism by allowing students the opportunity to express their opinion. It also cultivates an appreciation of both the responsibilities and benefits of being an American.

DHS Junior Acacia Cordes Wins Art Competition



Acacia Cordes, a Delano High School junior, won first place in an art competition sponsored by Rasmussen College - Eden Prairie Campus. The competition was held this past September and was open to high school students. The theme of the competition was, "What Hispanic Heritage and Culture Means to Me!"

Students could utilize Drawing

and Painting, 3-D Artwork, 3-D Sculpture, Photography, Computer Generated Art, and Film and Animation. All the art submitted by students was displayed at Rasmussen College and was concluded with an Art Opening. This opening was to celebrate both the Hispanic Culture and for staff, students and the community to view the artwork

On Tuesday, November 3, Ashley Vlasak and Dave Hansen, High School Admission Representatives from Rasmussen College, visited Delano High School to present this award to Acacia. Along with her framed artwork, she was awarded a \$100.00 gift certificate to Dick Blick Art Materials, for her first place finish.



*Celebrate an
Old-Fashioned Christmas in
Historic Downtown
Delano!*

Saturday, December 5, 2009

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Start your day at the Old-Fashioned Christmas Booth. Pick up your passport and map to old-fashioned fun and prizes. Look at some of the fun you can have:

- Art Walk
- Carolers
- Santa Hunt
- Secret Santa Shoppe
- ECFE Teddy Bear Tea
- Silver Bells Show
- Rivertown Boutique
- And much more!

This event is brought to the community by the Delano Area Council of Art and Culture.

The Importance of School Nurses and What Role They Play in Delano Public Schools

At Delano Public Schools, we are seeing increasing numbers of students with chronic health needs which must be managed by a school nurse's expertise during the school day. As a result of changes in health care, children now come to school with asthma, diabetes, severe reactions to allergens, transplants and chemotherapy for cancers. In addition, children in our classrooms may have seizure disorders, hearing problems, vision problems, mental health issues, brain injuries, celiac disease, eating disorders, or ADHD. Health conditions that you may have never heard of such as neurofibromatosis, fibrous dysplasia, adrenoleukodystrophy, trichotillomania and Long QT syndrome are health concerns we also address in our schools. School nurses manage any health condition a child brings to school. Today, federal laws IDEA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act guarantee access to education for all children. With how much time children spend in school, any illness or injury not only affects their ability to learn, but also affects the classroom environment and their peers' ability to learn. School nurses provide health planning and interventions for optimal management of children's health problems at school. They also manage the day to day administration of medication, emergency care and first aid. Delano Public School nurses also promote health and



wellness. They help implement employee wellness programs, provide consultation to food service, and work with teachers to meet student health needs. School nurses promote a healthy school environment by addressing issues related to communicable diseases, blood borne pathogens and infectious diseases. They monitor the immunizations of children and identify drug and alcohol problems. They do this because they know that children learn better when they are healthy.

The core of school nurse practice is the belief that all children have the ability to learn, all children have the right to health care; all children have the right to an education; and the whole of society benefits because children are educated and healthy. To promote this belief, school nurses participate on Individual Education Plans (IEP) and 504 teams and act as a liaison between school and health care providers and community health agencies.

Today's school nurses are professional health care providers who save lives, provide safe, optimal management of children's health problems, provide identification of health concerns, keep children healthy, reduce absences, and help assure academic success.

For 100 years, school nurses in Minnesota have been the essential link between health and education success.

Why Kids Need to Hear “No” From Their Parents

Delano Community Education is offering a “Say Yes to No Parenting Program” beginning in January 2010. This program is based on two of Dr. David Walsh’s books, *No: Why Kids Need to Hear It and Ways Parents Can Say It* and *Why Do They Act That Way?* This program is targeted for ALL adults that spend time with children, infants through adolescents. This class will be offered at the following times:

Mondays January 4,11,18 and February 1,8
6:30-8:00 pm
Community Education Room 214

Tuesdays January 5,12,19,26 and February 2
11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Delano Elementary School -
2nd Floor Multipurpose Room

The cost is \$25.00 per individual or couple at the door. The fee will be waived if you will have difficulty paying. Please call 763.972.3365., ext. 4155 to pre-register confidentially.

There is an epidemic of Discipline Deficit Disorder sweeping the Country. Symptoms include disrespect, a need for instant gratification, a sense of entitlement, self-centeredness, and out of control consumerism. Dr. Walsh teaches how the “Yes Culture” undermines our children’s success and happiness. Get down to each advice that can be put into practice immediately and learn effective strategies for helping children grow up healthy and happy.

Dr. David Walsh, Ph. D., has emerged as one of the world’s leading authorities on parenting and the impact of media on children’s health and development. Dr. Walsh’s books can be ordered through the Community Education office. Call 763.972.6210, ext. *101, for more details.

Food Service Policies for All Delano Public School Students and Their Families

There seems to be some misunderstanding by students and families of Delano Food Service policies. The district would like to clarify any misunderstandings you may have as a parent in the paragraphs below.

It is your responsibility to keep track of your student’s food service account. You can do this on Family Access by checking your payments, purchases, and current balance under “Food Service.” Accounts cannot be negative by more than \$5.00. Delano Public Schools sends out an email and phone notification when your account reaches \$5.00. Although, if your email address has not been provided to the school district, you will not receive email notification. Your student(s) are also told at checkout in the lunch line when they need money to be deposited in their account and low balance slips are available at each computer station to take as a reminder for the students. To avoid low balances, we recommend that you set up a personal email notification. This feature provides an automatic email notification when your balance reaches \$10.00. To do this follow these steps:

- You must be the payer on the account. To find out who your payer is, look in “payments” under food service.
- Click on Email Notifications which is located under General Information on the left hand side of the page.
- Click on “Change my Notifications”, then click “save.”

Payments must be made by 10:00 am to be recorded and available for your student that day. If payment cannot be made or is forgotten, please notify Tracie Erickson, Food Service Coordinator, at 763.972.3365, ext. 2136 by 10:00 am.

Delano Public Schools also participates in the federal/state program entitled “OFFER vs. SERVE.” Under this program, students are **required** to take a minimum of 3 out of 5 food items served when they eat a school meal. This option provides our students with the opportunity to choose the food for their meal and helps reduce waste.

Tiger Activity Center - Opportunities for Everyone!

The Tiger Activity Center is a membership based community center. We have single and family membership plans, or daily passes are also available. We offer both an aerobic fitness room, a free weight room, and an indoor walking track that wraps around six full courts. The circuit room has just been updated with two new Precor treadmills and a new Precor Adapted Motion Trainer (AMT). Open swim has come back on Wednesdays from 3:15 to 5:00 pm. Also, watch the new Community Education brochure for upcoming fitness classes. New classes include Kickboxing and a Weight Management class.

It pays to work out! We currently accept the following fitness reimbursement programs:

- Medica - Fit Choices by Medica
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield - Blueprint for Health
- UCare - UCAN for Adults 65+ years of age

- United Healthcare - for Target and Medtronic Employees
- Definity Health

Make sure to check with your employer or insurance provider to see if your health plan offers a fitness reimbursement. You can pick up enrollment forms at the Tiger Activity Center front desk.

For additional information log on to www.delano.k12.mn.us website and click on “Tiger Activity Center”, or call 763.972.3365, ext. 2110.

Get in Shape...Join Today!



Delano School District
700 Elm Avenue East
Delano, MN., 55328

Nonprofit Organization
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Delano, MN 55328

Delano Public Schools Mission

Delano Public Schools are committed to achieving academic excellence, responsible leadership, and consistent integrity.

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Delano Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Educator and Employer.



ECRWSS
Resident

Educational Excellence is Our Foremost Goal

December Events

- 3 CAC Meeting 7:00 pm
- 4 HS Choir Concert 7:30 pm
- 7 7th/8th Grade Choir Concert 7:00 pm
- 8 5th/6th Grade Choir Concert 7:00 pm
- 10 2nd Grade Music Program 7:00 pm
- 14 7th/8th Grade Band Concert 7:00 pm
- 15 5th/6th Grade Band Concert 7:00 pm
- HS Conferences 4:30-8 pm
- 17 HS Band Concert 7:30 pm
- 21 School Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- Delano Middle School Media Center
- 24-Jan 1 Winter Break - **NO SCHOOL**

January Events

- 4 School Resumes
- 11 8th Grade Registration Night 7:00 pm
- Financial Aid Night 7:00 pm
- 12 ES P.I.E. Meeting 7:00 pm
- 19 MS P.I.E. Meeting 6:30 pm
- 22 HS/MS End of the Quarter
- 25 Teacher Workshop - **NO SCHOOL**
- School Board Meeting 7:00 pm



For up-to-date activity schedules, log on to wconference.org

Delano Area Education Foundation Gala
Saturday, February 6!

This year's Gala, "Treasures of the Caribbean" will be held on Saturday, February 6, 2010, at the Rockford Township Hall. The ticket price of \$40.00 includes dinner, dancing, and a silent and live auction. This is DAEF's largest fund raising event of the year. Tickets will be available for purchase at each school building soon. Look for more information about where to get tickets on our website www.delano.k12.mn.us and in local newspapers.

If you are unable to attend the Gala, there is another way to donate to DAEF. Did you know that you can direct your United Way contributions to the Delano Area Education Foundation? Did you know that many corporate foundations have matching gift programs that could double the impact of your contributions to Delano Schools? If you answered "no" to either of these questions, but are interested in learning more about how you could contribute to your child's education in a meaningful way, please contact DAEF representative Laurie Brown via email at laurie.brown@genmills.com

Random Acts of Kindness Fund Needs You!

If you have any old ink/inkjet cartridges, MP3 players, laptops, digital cameras, digital video cameras, handheld game systems, or old, broken or disabled cell phones, we need them! These items will be recycled to benefit our Random Acts of Kindness fund which helps those that can not otherwise afford field trip fees, school activity fees, winter boots, snow pants, etc. Anyone can turn these items into Delano Elementary, Middle or High School offices.
Give a gift to those in need - recycle.