

Delano Students Restore Downtown Delano Murals



DHS Senior, McKay Elwood, who is also a member of Boy Scouts of America Troop 355 in Buffalo wanted to help preserve historic Delano. With the help of Youth As Resources (YAR), he was able to complete his project.

McKay is a member of Delano's Dream Team II. He had an idea that would help satisfy his requirements to become an Eagle Scout as well as beautify downtown Delano. With the help of the Dream Team members, a professional painter and many student volunteers, he was able to restore the original murals which would help to preserve history for all to see.

The next time you are driving through downtown Delano, on the corner of Elm and River Streets you may just experience a flash from the past!

State Delays School Aid Payments

News regarding education mostly revolves around school funding issues and the state's unprecedented budgetary problems. We would rather see news regarding student achievement and the great work out students and staff are doing. The reality of the unprecedented financial situation that the state and our schools face cannot be ignored, however.

The latest news involves state aid payment delays that are required when the state runs into cash flow problems. By law, "The state must first delay state aid payments to the maximum extent allowable before engaging in state short term borrowing," according to a memo received on January 26 from Alice Seagren, Commissioner of Education.

According to the memo received from the Commissioner, state aid payments will be delayed on March 15, March 30 and April 15, 2010. The estimated total payment delay for all the schools in the state is \$423.3 million. The delayed payments are required to be paid back to schools in full on May 30, 2010. This situation will require many Minnesota school districts to enter into short-term borrowing to cash flow their districts during this time.

For Delano Schools the delay is estimated to amount to \$1,960,407 for the March 15, 30 and April 15 payments. The school district will be able to cash flow itself during this period with the reserves that it has on hand.

This aid payment **delay** should not be confused with the payment **shift** that was put in place where the state delays 27% of the aid due in the current fiscal year to the next fiscal year. The shift causes another cash flow concern to school districts. Delano School District should be able to cash flow both the delay and the shift this time around.

School districts are sometimes criticized for carrying healthy fund balances. If there was ever a time when fund balances are needed for cash flow purposes, it is now. The other advantage is that the fund balance gives us time to respond to these unprecedented actions without immediate harm to the educational program or incurring the expense of short-term borrowing.

I look forward to the days when more of the headlines in the news are about all the positive things that are going on in our schools.

- John M. Sweet, Superintendent
<http://suptslog.blogspot.com/>

DHS Students Package Food for Haiti Earthquake Victims

DHS Spanish teacher John Fitzer, and students from his Spanish III class took a field trip to *Kids Against Hunger* in New Hope, MN, to package meals for the people of Haiti. In one hour of volunteer time, they packaged 4,968 meals that will be sent to individuals in Haiti devastated by the earthquake. Senior Kirby Crofutt, pictured to the right with Aaron Kutz, expressed, "We didn't expect to help as many people in such a short amount of time." This was an positive experience had by all that taught the students how to help others in a time of great need. All the students felt really good about the trip and all they had accomplished.



The students were grateful for all the Delano High School and community groups that supplied monetary resources to make this trip possible. Youth As Resources (YAR) supplied the funds for transportation and a \$5.00 donation per student. In addition, the National Honor Society, Student Council and Spanish III students personal donations provided \$1050.00 to pay for the food that was packaged.

The students took home with them a meaningful experience that will bring joy to those that served and food to those in need.

Delano School Employees Donate Over \$10,000 to United Way

The 2009 United Way Fund Drive for Delano Public Schools was a success last fall with nearly 120 district employees donating funds to raise \$10,157.00. This is \$250.00 more than the total raised in 2008.

The Delano High School staff raised the most which entitled them to a complimentary pizza luncheon. The elementary and community education staff should also be commended for increasing the number of participants and raising their contribution totals.

A special thank you to the employees that led the campaigns in their respective buildings; Jan Christophersen, Delano Elementary School, Jessica Nelson, Delano Middle School, Karen Hohenstein, Delano High School, and Diane Johnson, Delano Community Education.

Delano Public Schools is not only committed to Educational Excellence for its students, but also to the enrichment of the community and its members.



Early Childhood Health And Developmental Screening February 11 & 12

February 11 and 12, 2010, are the dates that have been set for Early Childhood Health and Developmental Screening offered through Delano Public Schools. Children who are three years ten months old up to five years of age are eligible for the upcoming screening. Minnesota State Law required that screening be completed prior to Kindergarten enrollment. Early Childhood Health and Development Screening includes: height, weight, vision, hearing, concepts, speech and language, health history, an immunization review, and consultation with a parent educator. Results from the screening are shared with the parent the same day and referrals are made, when necessary. To schedule a screening appointment, contact Jane Shaffer at 763.972.6210, ext. *113.



4th Grade Destination Imagination Team Wins DI Video Contest



Delano Elementary School's very own *YO-YO-Beanz* Destination Imagination (DI) team entered the DI Video Diary Contest and won! Team members pictured on the left, Sophia Pappas, Kate Bruhn, Tara Cady, Sally Thompson, Claire Bruhn, and Allyson Erickson are all smiles as they celebrate this success! Team members are now in the running to each receive a \$1000.00 college scholarship.

To enter this contest, each team had to submit a 100 word essay along with a 30 second video telling the judges why their DI Team should be selected the winners. *YO-YO-Beanz* is now in the top six teams around the world and will be given video cameras and a production schedule to document the journey from forming a team all the way to participating in an upcoming tournament.

You can see the Delano DI Team in action on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com>, and type in *YO-YO-Beanz*!

Come Meet Delano's Hometown Hero!



On Thursday, February 25, 2010, from 1:30-3:00 pm in the Delano Community Education Center, Room 115, come mingle with our very own Delano Elementary School Principal, Mr. Darren Schuler. Mr. Schuler will share what he likes about being a principal, and what his hobbies and pastimes are. He will read a story to the participants, play a board game with the kids, and help with an art project.

This is a chance for children that will be attending Delano Elementary School in the coming years to get a chance to meet the principal of their school. It may make your child more comfortable about attending kindergarten before the first day of school.

Registration is required for this event. The registration deadline is February 23, 2010. To register, call the Early Childhood Family Education office at 763.972.6210, ext. *113.

What's Happening in Activities at Delano High School!



On Tuesday, December 29, 2009, Delano senior Ann Berglund was awarded the Star Tribune and Hardware Hank Athlete of the Week for her participation as an athlete, her wonderful academic record as well as her commitment to community service. Ann sets a great example to other students off the basketball court as well as on. The senior guard, who carries a 4.0 GPA, also volunteers at the Delano Senior Center and in school for mentally challenged students as well as numerous other

activities. To find out more about Ann's award, you can log on to www.MinnesotaSportsOnline.com.

American Family Insurance Partners with Delano Public Schools Activities Department to Encourage Safe Driving

We would like to encourage all students and parents to make a voluntary pledge to drive safely and to support a Safe Driving Quest brought to us by American Family Insurance. This is not a monetary pledge, but a commitment pledge to drive safe, and encourage your children to follow safe driving guidelines to reduce accidents. To make a pledge, log on to www.teensafedriver.com/pledge. As part of this program, American Family has donated money to Delano basketball programs for hanging a banner supporting this quest. If Delano has the most pledges of those participating around the country, Delano Public Schools could win \$25,000.

National Geographic Society Geography Bee Winners



Congratulations to this year's Delano Middle School's Geography Bee winners, 7th grader Monica Sporre, 3rd place; 6th grader, Jonathan Kinney, 2nd place; and this year's 1st place winner, 8th grader Wyatt Russek. Other finalists were: Carl Schaeffbauer, Hunter Hart, Nate Petroski, Lars Osmon, Chloe Litts, Zach Nicholas and Anna Elsen. The DMS Geography Bee is sponsored by the National Geographic Society and is open to all students in grades 4th through 8th.

By taking first place in the contest, Wyatt's quest for a \$25,000 prize will be to take a state qualifying test. The top 100 qualifiers will be invited to the state competition to be held in March.

The Geography Bee is run by the Delano Talent Development department under the direction of Gwen Briesemeister.

West Metro Talent Competition Coming to Delano!

Calling all singers, musicians, dancers, actors and performers! Youth and adults from the communities of Orono, Delano, and Rockford School Districts are invited to participate in this talent competition sponsored by 4CommunityTheatre (4CT) and the Community Education Departments of these three districts. Share your talent with the community and win cash and prizes. Solo and group acts are welcome.

Here are the details:

When: Saturday, February 20
7:00 pm

Where: Middle School Auditorium
700 Elm Avenue, Delano

Entry Fee: \$10.00 - Individual
\$20.00 - Group

Performers must be pre-registered by Thursday, February 11.



If you would rather be a spectator, you can come enjoy a great night of entertainment and vote for your favorite act! The cost to get in is \$5.00 per person and children 10 and under are free. Tickets will be available at the door.

For competition details and registration information, log on to the 4CT website at www.4communitytheatre.org, or via phone contact Diane Johnson, Delano Community Education Director at 763.972.6210 and press 6.

All proceeds from the *Who's Got Talent* Competition will be used to support 4CT and its community theater productions. 4CT's mission is to build bridges between communities and generations while providing artistic outlets and quality theater experiences for all ages.

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

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Delano Public Schools Mission

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

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Educational Excellence is Our Foremost Goal

February Events

- 1 HS Registration Conferences
- 4 MS Winter Activity Day
- 6 DAEF Gala 6:00 pm
- 9 HS Site-Based Meeting 7:15 am
ES P.I.E. Meeting 7:00 pm
- 11-12 Early Childhood Health and Developmental Screening
- 15 Presidents Day - NO SCHOOL
- 16 MS P.I.E. Meeting 6:30 pm
- 18 MS Conferences 4-8 pm
- 22 MS Conferences 4-8 pm
HS Conferences 4:30-8 pm
School Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- 25 MS Conferences 4-8 pm

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



Last Chance to Get Your Gala Tickets!

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 the Delano Area Educational Foundation's largest fund raising event of the year. Tickets are available for purchase at each school building. Look for more information about where to get tickets on our website www.delano.k12.mn.us.

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

School Board Recognition Week ***February 22-26, 2010***



Delano Public Schools will join school districts throughout the state to salute their local education leaders during School Board Recognition Week. School board members selflessly devote their knowledge, time and talents as advocates for our schoolchildren. They also serve as a voice that enables our community to preserve local management and control of our public schools. Please join us by saying "thanks" to our school board members during the week of celebration of their public service.