



# Eye of the Tiger

Newsletter for District 879 Students, Parents and Community  
May 2011

[www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us)

## Keeping Educational Excellence Our Foremost Goal

In the past four weeks, community members and parents have shared thoughts and asked questions about the Operating Levy that will expire at the end of the 2012-2013 school year. Attendees of the Operating Levy Informational Meetings presented by the Delano School Board and Superintendent Dr. Sweet, walked away enlightened by the information shared with them. We want to thank all those individuals that took the time to attend.

Delano Public Schools, along with many school districts in the state, are trying to stretch dollars as they budget for the coming years with delayed and flat funding. Due to this situation, school districts are relying on voter approved levies to fund educational programs and operations of the district. The citizens of District 879, determine the level of educational programming and opportunities for students.

**As you gather information and form your opinion about the upcoming Operating Levy, keep in mind that the amount of funds that the Delano School District will be asking for will be to maintain current programs and class sizes.**

The following information is part of what has been presented at recent public meetings.

- Delano students consistently perform above average on all measures of academic achievement including MCA tests and the ACT college entrance exam, with a low per pupil cost (PPC).
- The school board has been discussing several scenerios regarding the operating levy.

**Given the low level of spending compared to that of other school districts in the state of Minnesota, should the students attending Delano Public Schools have to experience larger classes and reduced offerings that result from budget reductions?**

For more detailed information, log on to [www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us) and click on "Operating Levy Information" that is highlighted in red.

### 2010 MCA Results Bordering Schools Percent Proficient

School	Reading	Math	PPC FY09
Wayzata	90	84	\$10,253
Delano	85	84	\$ 8,204
Westonka	85	82	\$11,535
Orono	85	80	\$11,227
State	72	66	\$10,639
BHM	79	69	\$ 8,641
W-M	75	74	\$ 9,111
Rockford	75	70	\$ 8,260
HLWW	76	66	\$ 9,136

### Operating Levy Scenerios

Op Levy Per Pupil	NetTax Increase per \$100K Over 2011	Reductions Needed to Maintain 9% Fund Balance thru 6/30/15	Total Reductions to Maintain 9% Fund Balance thru 6/30/16
\$ 426	0	(\$3,607,000)	(\$6,016,000)
\$ 950	\$61		(\$ 601,000)
\$1,050	\$82		
\$1,185	\$109		
\$1,340	\$141		
\$1,554	\$185		

The chart above assumes:

- Flat state funding next two bienniums
- No increase in enrollment
- Spending increases 1.32% yearly
- One-time fed stimulus ends in FY11 (\$408,669) and FY12 (\$260,331)
- There is a 9% reduction in school taxes payable in 2011 or about \$45/\$100,000

NOTE: If the \$426 is not renewed \$5.8M cut by FY15 and \$9.3M by FY16

## Why Do We Focus So Much on Testing?

In our daily life, data surrounds us. It is used to measure progress and guide decisions of everything from sports teams, business marketing, stocks and medical diagnosing. Education is different. Teachers and administrators review data daily on a variety of matters, from attendance to assessment. In this day of accountability, the state and federal government are especially attuned to each school and school district's achievement data that is reported in the format of testing results.

***The MN Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) are currently being administered in public schools throughout Minnesota. This is a requirement of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation. NCLB is the 2001 reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). It is a federal law that is designed to improve student achievement and make the system accountable for students' success or failure.***

The overall purpose is to ensure that each student attending a public school is able to meet rigorous academic standards developed by the state. The federal legislation requires all states to develop and implement state-wide academic standards in the core subjects of Reading, Writing, Math and Science. There are several categories in which schools must demonstrate "Adequate Yearly Progress" (AYP), including proficiency, participation, ethnicity, free/reduced meal program, Special Education, Title I, homeless/neglected and migrant. The legislation states that by 2013-14, each school must have 100% of their students reach proficiency, as measured by a grade level assessment developed

by the state and aligned with the academic standards of each grade. The results of these assessments are returned to the school over the summer and allow a comparison of students attending Minnesota public schools. Therefore, they cannot be immediately used to guide instruction; however, the data is analyzed for use in curriculum review and the development of school improvement goals.

The district administers the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) in grades K-8, in the fall and spring of each school year. This assessment measures each student's academic growth and current learning level and allows for a nation-wide comparison of student achievement. It is not limited to grade level, only content, and the results are immediate. Teachers can use the data to drill down to specific skills and concepts a student is ready for, which assists in guiding instruction to his/her learning level. Results are used not only to guide instruction, but also in curriculum development, placement, program review and a predictor for MCA results.

So the answer to the frequently asked question, "***Why do we test so much?***" is simply...  
***Assessment measures the academic progress of our schools and students. MCA's are required by federal legislation; however, results are not immediate. MAP measures a student's learning level. These assessments, along with classroom assessments, help guide us down the path of continued academic excellence, which is our district's foremost goal.***

### School Food Service Accounts End of Year Notice

Effective, Wednesday, June 1, through the end of the school year, there is no charging of any amount to purchase a lunch or breakfast. Students will be denied their purchase if they go through the lunch line. This will eliminate negative balances at year end. **Per the Minnesota CFL-FNS, all meal payments must be made in advance. When a student does not have money in hand for the current meal or has not prepaid for the meal, a meal may be denied because of money owed to the food service account. The school is under no obligation to continue to serve children who do not pay for their meals. This includes families who are on a free or reduced meal plan.**

Account deposits must be turned in to the office by 10:00 a.m. each day to be recorded by lunch time. To check your current account balance, you can login to Family Access on the Delano schools website at [www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us) and click on "Food Service."

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Tracie Erickson at 763.972.3365, ext. 2136 or via email at [terickson@delano.k12.mn.us](mailto:terickson@delano.k12.mn.us).

### Delano Partners In Education Looking For Members to Serve on the Board



Are you looking for a way to get involved with Delano Schools? Do you have experience with foundations, fundraising, marketing and/or communications? Delano Partners In Education (DPIE) is looking for individuals for their Board of Directors. As this foundation gains momentum, they need more brains and bodies to move forward.

DPIE's mission is to enrich the learning experiences of all students in District 879 by helping them achieve academic excellence.

For more information, please contact [delanoschoolspie@gmail.com!](mailto:delanoschoolspie@gmail.com)

# River R.A.T.S. 5K Event Delano Public Schools Promotes Health & Wellness

Delano Public Schools staff, students and parents participated in the inaugural River R.A.T.S. "Really Active Teachers and Students" 5K Walk/Run/Roll, on Wednesday, April 13, 2011. This was a district wide event which involved a 12-week training program for those individuals who needed a jump start. Each school, from the elementary to high school, promoted this event with exercise incentives, healthy eating tips and prize drawings for the participants. 110 teachers and staff members participated in the 5K Run/Walk/Roll event. Before the 5K event, Delano Elementary School wanted to promote health and wellness to their kids, so 150 kids and parents hit the road running in a one mile fun run.



**DES kids get ready for the one mile Fun Run!**

get out and walk/run with other staff members."

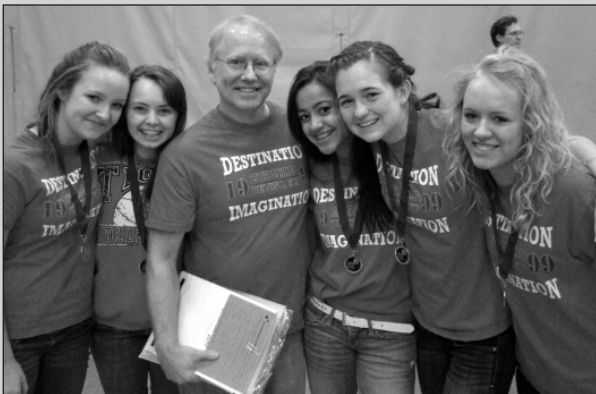
The River R.A.T.S. 5K event was so successful; the organizers are hoping to make this an annual event. We want to thank the local organizations who donated their products and services, along with Resource Training and Solutions for sponsoring this event.

Every participant received a t-shirt and medal for completing the 5K. At the finish line, participants were greeted with music, free massages and healthy food and drinks. There was enthusiasm everywhere! One staff member expressed, "It motivated me to get a family TAC membership and I started running with my children!" Another participant lost 23 pounds during the training program, while yet another shared, "This was a great event. It was nice to



**Human Resources Director Bonnie Inforzato, Social Worker Melissa Scott, John Fitzer, DHS Spanish Teacher, Nancy Wetter, DES Administrative Assistant and Business Manager, Mary Reeder, are all smiles after completing the 5K.**

## Destination ImagiNation Teams Headed to Globals



Four DI teams are off to Global Finals to be held from May 23-29, 2011, on the campus of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. At Globals, the Delano teams will compete against teams representing more than 30 different countries.

The 9th grade team pictured above, *New and Improved*, show off their medals after their 1st place finish in the Challenge B: Science competition. Fifth grade team, *Yo Yo Beanz*, won their Challenge E: Structure Building competition and also received a special Davinci Award for outstanding creativity. *Progress in Reverse*, took 2nd place in the Challenge B: Science competition and also

advanced to compete in Knoxville. The 9th grade team, *WOW!* is pictured below with a structure they built for the Challenge A: Technical competition. The judges were very impressed, as they also took home 1st place medals. In addition to these four teams, DHS 11th grader, Alex Harris, and her team from Orono, will be joining the teams from Delano in Knoxville. Congratulations DI Teams!

Destination ImagiNation is a creative problem-solving program for kids run through Delano Community Education. For more information contact Carley Boll, DI Coordinator, at [cboll@delano.k12.mn.us](mailto:cboll@delano.k12.mn.us).



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**Delano Public Schools Mission**

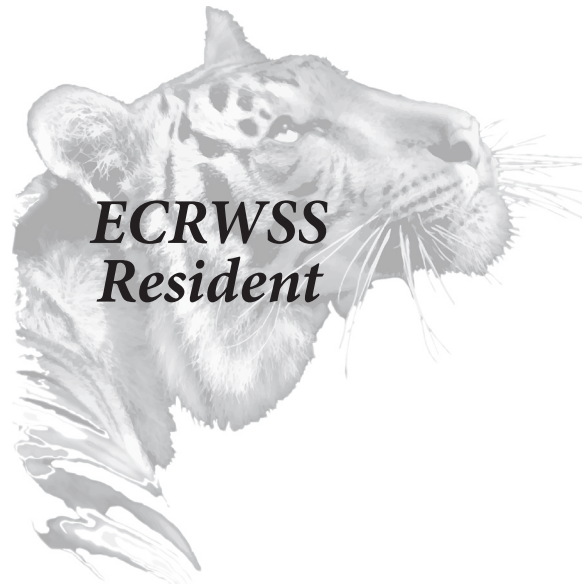
Delano Public Schools are committed to achieving academic excellence, responsible leadership, and consistent integrity.

**2011 Board of Education**

Peter Brasket, Chair  
 Amy Johnson, Vice Chair  
 Carolyn Milano, Clerk  
 Sarah Baker, Director  
 Lisa Seguin, Director  
 Erika Frake, Director

*Eye of the Tiger* is published by Delano Public Schools, 700 Elm Avenue East, Delano, MN, 55328. Editor, Traci Lawman, District Communications Coordinator, 763.972.3365, ext. 5111, [tlawman@delano.k12.mn.us](mailto:tlawman@delano.k12.mn.us).

**Find Us On**



**ECRWSS**  
**Resident**

***Educational Excellence is Our Foremost Goal***

**May Events**

2	Festival of Nations - 6th Grade	12:30-2 pm
3	5th/6th Grade Band Concert	7 pm
5	HS Band Concert	7:30 pm
9	HS P.I.E. Meeting	7 pm
10	ES P.I.E. Meeting	7 pm
	HS Site Based Meeting	7:15 am
11	MS Site Base Meeting	7 am
	Senior Honors & Dollars for Scholars Ceremony	7:30 pm
12	7th/8th Grade Choir Concert	7 pm
14	MS Student Council Walk for Cystic Fibrosis	8:30 am
15	NHS Induction Ceremony	1 pm
17	5th/6th Grade Choir Concerts	7 pm
23	School Board Meeting	7 pm
24	HS Choir Concert	7:30 pm
	1st Grade Track & Field Day	9:30 am
25	2nd Grade Track & Field Day	9:30 am
26	MS Honors Breakfast	7:30 am
	1st Grade Music Program	7 pm
27	1st Grade Grandparents Day	12:15-2:30 pm
	HS Spring Fling Day	12:20- 3 pm
30	Memorial Day - <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	
31	3rd Grade Track & Field Day	9:30 am

**June Events**

1	4th Grade Track & Field Day	9:30 am
5	HS Graduation	1:30 pm
8	<b>Last Day of School</b>	
27	School Board Meeting	7 pm

**Communication: Where Do You Want to Get Information From Delano Public Schools?**

As we head into spring and begin planning for the 2011-2012 school year, we continue to look at how we are communicating to our parents and community members. In the recent NSPRA Communications Survey that was emailed to 2800 individuals, the communication methods of choice were Schoolreach email and phone messages, Family Access, e-newsletters and the district website.

Due to cost, we are considering reducing the amount of printed newsletters we mail to district residents. As a district, we are exploring different types of communication we can provide to continue to keep you abreast of what is happening at Delano Public Schools.

**If you would like to continue receiving information from us, and are not a parent with children in the school district, please log on to [www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us), click on ENews Community List, and sign up.** When you register you will receive the latest information on a variety of topics throughout the school year. Currently, all school e-newsletters are also posted on the schools website. You may log on to each individual school to read these publications at your leisure.

Thank you to all the parents and community members that took time to fill out the NSPRA Communications Survey. We appreciate and value all the input that was shared with us!