

## Bemidji State University Publishes Writing of DHS Senior



Ellen Woodward, a senior at Delano High School, was recently honored by having her fictional short story, *Fieldwork*, published in "New Voices", a publication of Bemidji State University. *Fieldwork* is a story about a 17 year-old girl named June who is determined to rise above her upbringing and her struggles with a troubled home life. Ellen uses strawberries to analyze life and how, as she writes at the end of her story, "It is rather amazing how strawberries need light and water to become "simply wonderful", and yet a vibrant life can develop without perfect nurturing."

2010 marked the 34th anniversary of the "New Voices" writing contest at Bemidji State University. This contest was open to all high school students in Minnesota. Ellen's short story was one of 70 writing pieces chosen by a group of professors that was published in the "New Voices Anthology." This publication includes short stories and poetry written by young writers. Ellen and Mr. Rob Luke, the English teacher at DHS that encouraged Ellen to enter her work, attended a reception honoring the published writers on Friday, April 9, in Bemidji.

## Thank You to Those Who Made a Difference

I would like to recognize seven staff members who are retiring this year:

**Sharon Keller**, 5th grade, 39 years of service  
**Gail Savage**, special education, 38 years of service  
**John Zerull**, social studies, 38 years of service  
**Jan Christophersen**, 4th grade, 31 years of service  
**Brad Hagen**, vocal music, 31 years of service  
**Leo Pospichal**, special education, 24 years of service  
(Leo is leaving the district to finish his career teaching in China)  
**Barb Stevens**, paraprofessional, 13 years of service

These staff members have all made great contributions to the education of students of Delano Public Schools and I congratulate them on their contributions and retirement.

We will also be missing seven other teachers who are leaving the district at the end of the year and we appreciate their contributions as well:

**Melissa Baker**, high school science; **Aileen Cahill**, grade 4; **Quinn Ebert**, middle school math; **Jesse Hackenmueller**, middle school physical education; **Rochelle Lindberg**, grade 6; **Amy Kelly**, high school special education; and **Dr. Aixue Wang**, Chinese.

At the school board meeting on April 26, the board approved adding Chinese language to our online offerings as an alternative to hiring a full or part-time teacher to accommodate the students with interests in the Chinese language and culture. This action was preceded by a great presentation on the trip students and faculty made during spring break to our sister school in China. We will again have visitors from Tanguu, China in June.

In other action at the April 26 meeting, the board gave approval for the design of a parking lot at 789 Tiger Drive, across the street from Delano Elementary with about 64 parking spaces. This is in response to concerns about students parking on Elm Avenue. There are several advantages to placing a parking lot at this location. 1) It will serve a future building at the site and 2) it will provide over-flow parking for the elementary and hockey arena. This was the preferred site after consulting with students and residents of Elm Avenue. If things go as planned the board will consider bids for this project at the June 28 meeting with completion about August 13. This will be funded from the Capital Outlay Fund reserve with an estimated budget of \$120,000.

As the school year begins to draw to a close we reflect on all the great work of our students and staff as well as the great support they receive from parents. Thank you for a great school year.

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

## School Food Service Accounts End of Year Notice

Effective Wednesday, May 26, 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 am 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 any 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).



## 2010-11 School Year District Wall Calendars

DMS P.I.E. will once again be selling district wall calendars for the 2010-2011 school year.

This year the calendar will be a 13-month calendar and **no pre-order is needed**. **You can pick them up after August 10 in the district office. They will also be available at each school's open house.**

The cost per calendar is \$5.00.



## Summer at Tiger Kids Club

Tiger Kids Club (TKC) is Delano School District 879's childcare program designed for children aged 4 years by May 1, 2010 through the completion of 6th grade. TKC provides quality childcare year-round, Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. **The summer program runs from June 14 through August 27, 2010.**



**Tiger Kids Club is teaming up with the "Summer Trek" middle school program for students going into 5th and 6th grade.** Options will include additional field trips (for a fee), enrichment classes, sport camps and community service projects.

**TKC also offers swimming lessons.** You can register for summer swimming lessons at TKC registration night. Swimming lessons will be held at the Delano pool. Specific times are reserved for TKC students in Session 3, July 12-23. TKC Staff will escort your child to and from lessons.

Come and experience Tiger Kids Club this summer. **The following activities are offered:**

- Enrichment classes
- Dramatic play
- Outdoor play
- Sports
- Visits to area parks
- Visits to public library
- Open gym time
- Community service projects
- Weekly field trips

**Include:** Crystal Cove Water Park, St. Louis Water Park, Summer Land Water Park, Imax Theater, Chutes and Ladders, Pump it Up, Minnesota Zoo, Build-a-Bear Workshop, Edina Water Park, Children's Museum, and more!

Students **must** bring their own lunch every day. A nutritious afternoon snack will be provided. Breakfast is served daily if your child arrives by 7:30 a.m.

### Registration for Summer 2010

**Tuesday, May 4  
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Community Education Center  
140 Elm Avenue  
Delano**

Each room at TKC is staffed by a qualified and caring lead teacher and aide. The entire staff is trained in CPR, First Aid and FUN!

### The program rates and sessions are:

Full Time Care \$140.00/week/child  
Part Time Care \$32.00/week/child  
(3 day minimum)

There is a **non-refundable activity and bus fee** due at registration. The activity fee is \$70.00 per child. After Monday, May 21 it is \$100.00 per child. The activity fee helps off-set the cost of transportation, supplies, food and craft materials. **For more information, please contact Jackie Jerde at 763.972.6210, ext. \*212.**

## FIRST Robotics Team Competes in Regional Competition



FIRST, "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology", Robotics combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. Under strict rules, limited resources, and time limits, teams of 25 students or more are challenged to raise funds, design a team "brand," hone teamwork skills, and build and program

robots to perform prescribed tasks against a field of competitors. FIRST is known as "the varsity sport of the mind." It is as close to "real-world" engineering as a student can get.

The 2010 FIRST Regional Competition was held from April 1-3, on the University of Minnesota campus. After the Delano High School team succeeded in the first round of competition, they competed in the playoffs. In the end, the team finished 28 out of 60 teams competing. This year's game was called Breakaway. The students had to build a robot to play a type of soccer game. Leo Janas, pictured above, was hard at work planning and designing this year's Breakaway project as part of the DHS FIRST team. Other team members included: Sandra Arnold, Cara Sandlass, Joe Janas, Jeff Wetter, Sam Filmore, Alissa Cichon, Christy Olson, and Parker VanSickle.

FIRST is sponsored by Sil-Pro, a local company in Delano that manufactures silicone molding products for the medical industry. For more information on how to become a part of the FIRST program contact Chris Tellers, Sil-Pro Tooling Manager at [ctellers@sil-pro.com](mailto:ctellers@sil-pro.com), or Mike Stoudt, DHS science teacher at [mstoudt@delano.k12.mn.us](mailto:mstoudt@delano.k12.mn.us).

## DMS 6th Grade Students Raise Funds for Reconstructive Surgery In India



Halim Fadah, pictured above, was born with a cleft lip. Because of the efforts of two Delano Middle School sixth grade classes, Halim was able to have reconstructive surgery on March 26, 2010. The sixth graders raised \$2500.00 which not only paid for Halim's surgery, but four others who needed reconstructive surgery as well. This was all done on behalf of Smile Network, a Minnesota-based nonprofit organization that provides life-altering, reconstructive surgeries to impoverished children and young adults in developing countries. To bring their fundraising to life, the sixth graders participated in a live simulcast with Halim and his grandparents before and after the surgery took place. Smile Network Founder Kim Valentini stated, "It was truly amazing to witness these sixth graders seeing firsthand the difference their drive has made to these special children in India."

## Silence Falls on DMS Auditorium as Backstrom Family Shares Tragic Story with Students

Connie and Nathan Backstrom lost three sons to a drunk driver in Dakota County, MN on October 10, 2004. These parents shared their heart-breaking story to 11th and 12th grade students at Delano High School last week. The auditorium fell silent and all eyes were drawn to the clothes draped on chairs in front of them, left behind by the boys who lost their lives. Their family tragedy turned their life upside down in a matter of hours. The death of their sons was not because of a poor choice they made, it was due to one person's choice to drive under the influence.



drinking and driving; to help students' be aware of their choices and how they affect everyone around them; to increase seat belt use among high school students; and to familiarize students to the role of Public Safety Personnel and the services they provide to the community. Before the Backstrom presentation, the students were taken behind the scenes of what happens once you are arrested for drunk driving. A video illustrated the steps taken after you are placed in a police car all the way to the jail cell.

This presentation along with the Mock Car Crash staged by Delano High School were done to graphically illustrate to students the serious consequences of



We want to extend a big thank you to all the students, community members, and agencies who gave of their time and expertise to bring this message forward. It is our desire to reduce death and injury and to help students make good choices while driving.

*Pictured on the left:* Senior Molly Hutchins lays lifeless on smashed car; Senior Josh Damburg is arrested for drunk driving and vehicular homicide by Officer Craig Burton

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

**Nonprofit Organization**  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
**Delano, MN 55328**

**Delano Public Schools**  
**Focus Statement**  
*Educational Excellence is Our  
 Foremost Goal*

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**ECRWSS**  
**Resident**

**Educational Excellence is Our Foremost Goal**

**May Events**

- 2 National Honor Society Induction Ceremony  
DMS Auditorium 1 pm
- 4 5th & 6th Band Concerts 7 pm  
DMS Auditorium
- 6 HS Band Concert 7:30 pm
- 10 4th Grade Parent Informational Meeting  
DMS Auditorium 7 pm
- 11 MS Principal's Honor Roll Breakfast  
HS/MS Cafeteria 7:30 am
- ES P.I.E. Meeting 7 pm
- 12 HS Honors & Dollars for Scholars Awards  
Ceremony - DMS Auditorium 7:30 pm
- 13 7th & 8th Grade Choir Concerts 7 pm
- 17 6th Grade Parent Informational Meeting  
DMS Auditorium 7 pm
- 18 2nd Grade Track & Field Day
- 5th & 6th Grade Choir Concerts 7 pm  
DMS Auditorium
- MS P.I.E. Meeting 6:30 pm
- 19 4th Grade Track & Field Day
- 20 HS Choir Concert 7:30 pm  
DMS Auditorium
- 24 School Board Meeting 7 pm
- 25 1st Grade Track & Field Day
- 26 3rd Grade Track & Field Day
- MS Exploratory Day
- 27 1st Grade Music Program 7 pm  
ES Gym
- 28 1st Grade - Grandparents Day  
HS Spring Fling Day - Last Day for Seniors
- 31 Memorial Day - **NO SCHOOL**

**For sports and school activities, log on to**  
**[wconference.org](http://wconference.org)**

**Last day of school is Friday, June 4**

**5th Grade Destination ImagiNation  
 Team Advances to Global Finals**



**5th Grade Team pictured (l to r):** Brianna Somers, Jennifer Sprengeler, Natalie Pupp, Elizabeth Soderberg, Stephanie Almquist, Ally Fake

Five Destination ImagiNation teams competed in the state competition at Anoka High School on Saturday, April 17, for their chance to travel to Knoxville, Tennessee to compete in Global Finals. The teams all performed extremely well, but the competition was fierce.

Coming in third place in their Challenge was the 4th grade team, **Yo-Yo Beanz**; the 6th grade team, **Cool as Ice**; and the 8th grade team, **WOW**. Only

the top two teams in each Challenge advance to Global Finals. The 3rd grade team, **The Sugar Packets**, also performed well, getting their first taste of a state competition.

The 5th grade team, **Wacky Wild Whimsies**, took first place in their challenge at the regional competition, and will be traveling to Knoxville, Tennessee at the end of May to compete against teams from more than 40 countries.

For more information on Destination ImagiNation and how to get involved, contact Carley Boll, Youth Development Coordinator, at 763.972.3365, ext. 2137 or via email at [cboll@delano.k12.mn.us](mailto:cboll@delano.k12.mn.us).