



Eye of the Tiger

District 879 Newsletter December 2017-January 2018

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National Signing Day
Third place at state

Dates to remember

December

- 2.....ECFE Holiday Boutique,
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 2.....ECFE Teddy Bear Tea,
10 to 11:30 a.m.
- 3.....Jazzy Holiday Concert, 4 p.m.
- 7.....Gr. 4 concert, 6:30 p.m.
- 9.....Jr. High One Act Play, TBA
- 11.....HS PIE, 6 p.m.
- 11.....District PIE, 7 p.m.
- 14.....Gr. 5-6 band concert, 7 p.m.
- 18.....Gr. 7-8 band concert, 7 p.m.
- 25-31.....Winter break

January

- 1.....Winter break
- 8.....HS PIE, 6 p.m.
- 8.....District PIE, 7 p.m.
- 9.....ES PIE, 6 p.m.
- 12.....End of 2nd quarter
- 15.....Martin Luther King
Jr. Day, no school
- 20.....One Act Play Festival



It's concert season at Delano Schools. Check out the dates above and come enjoy the shows.



Students approach the new high school entrance on Monday, Nov. 20, the first time that the area was open for use. The new high school office also opened the same day.

Evidence of progress

By Dr. Matthew Schoen
Superintendent

The day finally arrived. We have opened the new entrance to our high school. Hopefully you took the opportunity to attend the open house on Monday, Nov. 20, where we facilitated guided tours of the completed phases within the project to date.



The opening of the new high school entrance marks the official closing of the middle school entrance due to the construction of family locker rooms and the diving well in that area. This was a significant transition for our staff, students, parents and community members, but based on the first few weeks of operation, we have managed it well.

As for projects that are currently underway, I am pleased to announce that we have completed the locker rooms located adjacent to the hockey arena. These locker rooms are designed to be multi-purpose for three high school sports, and five teams in total. The locker rooms are currently used by the boys and girls hockey teams through the winter season. In the spring both

the boys and girls lacrosse teams will utilize these locker rooms, and the football team will use both locker rooms in the fall.

The next project in line for completion is the new district offices located at the southeastern portion of the existing middle school. These offices are scheduled to be open by the end of December.

Other phases that will begin or continue during the school year include the redesign and reconstruction of the middle school media center, the visual arts area, the new staff workroom, the Performing Arts Center, and the addition to the Tiger Activity Center that will house our new circuit and weight room.

Intermediate school on schedule

The new intermediate school is on schedule and progressing nicely. As you can see, some landscaping has been completed, along with additional parking and sidewalk work.

The building itself is now completely enclosed, which will allow our contractors to work through the winter to prepare for a spring date of occupancy.

With the district taking occupancy of the new building in the spring, this will give our staff transitional time to move in and set up all systems to operate the new school.

Our students and staff will begin the 2018-19 school year in the new school for grades 4-6.

Techam is Teacher of the Year

By Paul Downer
Communications Coord.

It has been a memorable year for Marie Techam, who earned a Leadership in Educational Excellence Award in October, and was named the district's 2017 Teacher of the Year in November.

The high school social worker does not preside over a conventional classroom, but instead provides vital support to students in the areas of mental, social and emotional wellness. Each year the Delano Teacher's Association votes from a list of candidates for a Teacher of the Year to represent the district at the state level.

"Being named Teacher of the Year is such an honor and definitely one of the highlights of my career," said Techam. "Since moving to Delano, working here, and having my kids go to school here, I have been truly amazed by the excellent teaching staff and support personnel we have. Our district employees overall are so dedicated to helping students, and go above and beyond to give students a quality education. To be a school social worker getting this honor, it truly is a



Marie Techam

testament to the teachers and how much they value all areas of helping students."

A nomination written by Shallyn Tordeur, alternative education instructor and School Within a School director for Delano, recognized Techam for working behind the scenes to help both students and staff perform to their full potential.

"She's witnessed and helped not only students but staff in their darkest moments, and is an advocate for all," Tordeur wrote. "Marie embodies what every teacher should be. She is caring and respected and never asks anything from others. She strives for each student to feel

loved, and helps each teacher know the importance of this. She truly is a gift to Delano."

In Delano since 2005

Techam is in her 11th year at Delano, and 18th overall as a social worker in education. The Little Falls native graduated from Minnesota State University, Mankato in 1999 with her bachelor's degree in social work, and earned her master's degree in education from St. Mary's University in 2003.

"I went into this career to help kids. I like social work because it allows you to help people help themselves," Techam said. "My philosophy of education is that every child

'Marie embodies what every teacher should be. ... She is truly a gift to Delano.'

Shallyn Tordeur

deserves a safe and nurturing place to learn. Every student should feel a sense of belonging when they walk into school each day."

Her first job was at the Minnesota River Valley Special Education Cooperative in Jordan, where she served E/BD students in grades K-12 from 2000 until 2005. From 2005 to 2007 she worked for the Ogilvie schools, focusing on truancy and family collaboration.

Techam joined Delano as the social worker for grades 5-12 in 2007, and after a middle school social worker was hired began to focus exclusively on high school students in 2015.

"The most enjoyable part of my job is when I witness change within a student," Techam said. "When they learn coping skills or strategies to help themselves through a difficult situation it is so gratifying to see. In working with high school students I often get to witness them taking control over important areas within their lives and making choices to better their future. To see a student start to improve in their self-esteem and confidence and be able to advocate for him/herself makes me so proud of them."

• For the complete article on Techam and her work, see www.delano.k12.mn.us.

Leaders in Educational Excellence honored

A quartet of Delano teachers recently received honors as Leaders in Educational Excellence.

The four included Ginger Diethart, reading interventionist at DES; third-grade teacher Charlene Warne, who was named Delano Teacher of the Year for 2016-17; middle school physical education teacher Jamie Longstreet; and high school social worker Marie Techam, who is also the Delano Teacher of the Year for 2017-18 (see article above).

Their Leadership in Educational Excellence Awards were distributed at the 26th annual Award and Recognition Ceremony hosted by Resource



Ginger Diethart

Training & Solutions on Wednesday, Oct. 25.

Diethart is in her 10th year of teaching in Delano, and said that receiving the LEEA recognition was a true honor.

"It does the heart good to realize that all the hard work you put in throughout the year is noticed and appreciated," she said.



Charlene Warne



Jamie Longstreet

Warne is in her 13th year at Delano Elementary and 22nd year in teaching overall.

"I enjoy building a strong community with the students in my classroom so it is a place to learn, grow and belong," she said.

Longstreet has been a physical education teacher at DMS for the past 18 years.



Marie Techam

"It is an honor to be nominated by colleagues; however, I am really just doing my job to the best of my ability every day," he said. "Physical fitness is an important component to leading a healthy life, and I get to be an introductory part of that process for students."

Techam is in her 11th year at Delano, and 18th overall.

"Receiving the Leadership in Educational Excellence Award was a big honor," she said. "I am so proud to work for Delano Schools and to be given both of these honors while working amongst such wonderful staff."

• For more information, see www.delano.k12.mn.us.

Clothing drive aids veterans in need

By Paul Downer
Communications Coord.

Thanks to the generosity of the Delano community, many veterans served by the St. Cloud Veterans Administration Hospital will have warm clothing to wear this winter.

For a second consecutive year, Delano Public Schools took part in a clothing drive that concluded just before Veterans Day in order to gather items, which were then donated to the hospital for distribution.

"At the time the drive began, the center's inventory was at almost zero in most of the clothing areas," said Ginny Schuelke, who organized the drive along with Karla Otterness. "Thanks to the support of the Delano students, families and staff, we were able to deliver a large number of items in each of the areas identified. In addition, with the funds that were donated we were able to purchase eight winter coats and hats as well."

In all, the drive collected about 580 new clothing items, including shirts, pants, underclothes and footwear, during its three-week run.

Schuelke and Otterness are the par-



Second-graders from Amanda Anderson's class display thank you notes to veterans in addition to the clothing gathered at Delano Elementary School.

ents of veterans, and said the idea for the clothing drive originated when they volunteered at the St. Cloud VA during the summer of 2016.

When they arrived to drop off the clothing the first year, Otterness said they had a

"wonderful" reception from the hospital.

"They were very thankful that we were bringing in this donation," she said, adding that as far as she knew the effort was unique among school districts. "We're very happy with the turnout again this year."

Announcements

Holiday Boutique and tea event

Delano's Early Childhood Family Education program is hosting a pair of events during Delano's Old Fashioned Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 2.

The ECFE Holiday Boutique, featuring unique, local hand-made gifts will take place in the Community Ed building gymnasium from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free. The annual Scholastic Book Fair will also be held during that time to help provide last-minute stocking stuffers.

In addition, tots of all ages are invited to the ECFE Teddy Bear Tea and Story Time from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in Room 112. Children are invited to bring their teddies to enjoy tea and crumpets while listening to holiday stories. No registration is required, and the event is free.

Early childhood screening dates

Community Education offers opportunities for families to do their early childhood health and developmental screenings without going to a clinic.

Remaining dates for the school year include Thursdays and Fridays, Dec. 7-8, Jan. 18-19, Feb. 15-16 and March 15-16.

Screenings are free and are conducted at the Community Education building. During the screening, teachers walk students through a variety of activities while evaluating things like speech and language, and check to see if there might be medical needs

in terms of eyesight and hearing. If children have such needs, referring them to the proper resources early on can reduce any gaps that might appear as they move up through the grade levels. Following the screening, staff hold an exit interview with parents to discuss results and available resources, if necessary.

Children age 3.5 through age 4 should attend a screening session.

New school rewards program

Support for a school district can come in many forms, but anyone who wishes to aid the Delano schools through the Coborn's school rewards program should be aware of a change in how the program works this fall. Coborn's is starting its new paperless MORE School Rewards program, which replaces the former Labels for Learning. There are three steps to participate.

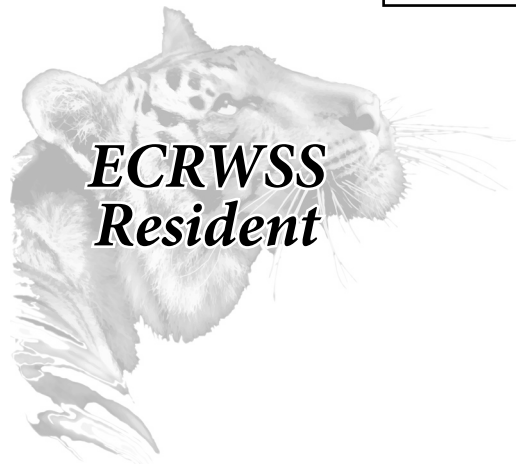
1. Designate your preferred school (DHS, DMS or DES) by logging into moreRewards.com or the MORE Rewards mobile app. Click the Rewards tab at the top of the page, then the School Rewards tab.

2. Shop Coborn's for the store brands (Food Club, Full Circle, Top Care, Paws, Tippy Toes and more) to earn points for your preferred school.

3. The points your school earns will increase its share of a total available pot of \$150,000 that is distributed among participating schools. The more points a school earns, the larger its piece of the pie will be. See moreRewards.com/school for more information.

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Educational Excellence is Our Foremost Goal

Swim team takes third place at state

The Delano girls swimming and diving team took third place at the state meet on Saturday, Nov. 18.

Medal winners included Morgan Frank, Lauren York,

Laila Rosenow, Emma Kern, Kylie Strobl and Jordyn Wentzel.

Wentzel also won two individual state titles in the 500 free and 100 breaststroke.



Photo courtesy of Matt Kane, Delano Herald Journal



From left, Mitchell Durst, Jack Paulson, Calvin Wishart and Emma Moonen signed letters of intent on Nov. 8.

College sports futures

Four Delano High School athletes signed national letters of intent on Wednesday, Nov. 8, to play at a higher level when they reach college next fall.

Mitchell Durst will play Division I lacrosse for the University of Detroit Mercy, and plans to study business and management. Calvin Wishart will play Division I basketball for Georgia Southern University and study business marketing or exercise science.

Jack Paulson will play Divi-

sion II baseball for Northern State University and is considering studying business management. Emma Moonen will be a member of the inaugural University of Wisconsin-River Falls women's lacrosse team in Division III, and is planning to study animal science or elementary education.

The athletes were honored on National Signing Day in front of students, staff members and family. See more details about each individual on the district website.