

# Eye of the Tiger

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## Building for the Future: Project Update

From the look of our campus, it may be difficult to conclude that some of our building projects have been completed. As most of you know, the expansion to our cafeteria in the elementary school is complete with just a few punch list items to be addressed this spring. In addition, I am pleased to announce we have completed the installation of an elevator at the community education building. Now students and staff will be able to utilize the elevator to reach all floors of the building. The redesigned secure entrance of the building is also complete.

As you can see from both Tiger Drive and County Road 30, the exterior walls of the new intermediate school are visible, with second floor infrastructure being installed during the month of April. The intermediate school is on schedule and is progressing nicely for a completion date in May 2018. This school will officially open in the fall of the 2018-2019 school year. The high school redesign project is also progressing. The majority of the work being facilitated includes the front entrance redesign, the construction of the new high school offices, a secured entrance, and the expansion of the cafeteria. This is the first phase of the high school project that is slated to be completed in October of 2017. There are multiple phases of this project and all phases of the secondary school redesign are slated to be completed by August of 2018. Needless to say, our school campus will be a very busy place over the next 16 months.

With construction come adjustments to daily routines as well as a tremendous amount of understanding and patience. I want to address a few of these areas to keep operations running smoothly and safe for everyone.



- **Parking and Traffic:** During construction, parking will be less available and the distance to building entrances will be less convenient. While this will cause frustration, there is no way around it. We are working with contractors regularly to communicate concerns. Please be patient while driving through campus and be aware of your surroundings. Our top priority is the safety of our students, staff, parents and community members that access our campus.
- **Utility Disruption:** There will be times when we will need to shut off power, water or other services to make necessary connections. When planned, these will always be communicated in advance. If utilities are unintentionally interrupted, we will assess the situation and communicate the resolution as soon as possible.
- **Odors Related to Construction:** When you are in and around campus during construction, there may be a number of new smells. For the most part these are normal and harmless. If you feel an odor is particularly strong or questionable, please notify the closest school office or staff member.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the building projects, email [buildingprojects@delanoschools.org](mailto:buildingprojects@delanoschools.org).

- **Matthew W. Schoen**  
**Superintendent**

### Upcoming Events

#### April

6 & 7	HS Musical "Cyrano De BurgerShack"	7 pm
	<i>MS Auditorium</i>	
11	Sci-Tech Showcase	12-3 pm and 4-7 pm
	<i>Tiger Activity Center</i>	
	DPIE Meeting	7 pm
14	Holiday - <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	
22	HS Prom/Grand March	5 pm
	<i>Tiger Activity Center</i>	
24	School Board Meeting	5:45 pm

#### May

4	5th & 6th Band Grade Band Concert	7 pm
	<i>All concerts are held in the MS Auditorium</i>	
8	DPIE Meeting	7 pm
	HS Band Concert	8 pm
9	5th & 6th Grade Choir Concert	7 pm
11	HS Choir Concert	7:30 pm
16	7th & 8th Grade Choir Concert	7 pm
21	Graduation	1:30 pm
	<i>Tiger Activity Center</i>	
22	School Board Meeting	5:45 pm
24	<b>Last Day of School</b>	

# Charlene Warne

## Delano Public Schools 2017 Teacher of the Year

Charlene Warne, a third grade teacher at Delano Elementary School, was selected as Delano Public Schools 2017 Teacher of the Year by her colleagues.

Charlene's teaching philosophy embraces the whole child. She believes that every child deserves to learn something new each day in her classroom. Whether they are a struggling learner, at grade level, or a gifted learner, she tailors her instruction to meet the needs of each of her students. One of Charlene's strengths is thinking out loud while she teaches. This enables her students to understand the step-by-step thinking process. She demonstrates her thinking through a written step-by-step process or hands on activity. She then ensures her students understand by having them restate what they have learned or explain the task that needs to be completed by the student. "As a classroom teacher there are demands from the district, state, and national level for our students to perform well on tests," Charlene expressed. "We are living during a time when everything is data driven. However, we as teachers must not forget that these are children in our classroom; they want to explore, play, be creative, and have the opportunity to be kids." Charlene strives to make a difference in the lives of her students. She often goes above and beyond outside of the classroom to make sure her students know they are special and important, well beyond the year she spends as their teacher. The home-school connection is also a priority for Charlene, and structured, organized parent-teacher conferences help support this bond between school and family.



Charlene recognizes that a major public issue today is whether to continue to assign homework or for school districts to adopt a "no homework" policy. She respects that students are involved in after school activities, have family time, and need time to play. Charlene believes in homework for her students. She assigns homework on Mondays, keeps assignments focused, limits length, and asks that homework is returned on Fridays. Homework is a good review of lessons learned and also teaches students about time management, a lifelong skill. This belief comes from the success she has witnessed over her many years of teaching. Charlene shared a quote that reflects her viewpoint on homework in her 2017 Minnesota Teacher of the Year application, "A good way to think about homework is the way you think about medications or dietary supplements," stated Duke University Psychology Professor Harris Cooper, "If you take too little, they'll have no effect. If you take too much, they can kill you. If you take the right amount, you'll get better."

Charlene has been involved in a multitude of professional committees during her tenure at Delano. She is a New Teacher Mentor, Lead Peer Coach for Q-Comp, involved in Curriculum Mapping, a Cluster Classroom Teacher and has served on the Professional Development Committee, Elementary Site Base Committee and was awarded a Leadership in Educational Excellence Award in 2015. Charlene's passion to support community is evident in her involvement in Delano's Relay for Life, along with her previous guidance on the Christian Education Committee at Light of Christ Lutheran Church for 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Charlene received her Bachelor of Elementary Education with a minor in Psychology from Augsburg College. She went on to earn her Master's in Education from the University of St. Thomas. She began her teaching career at the Andersen Open School in Minneapolis, MN, in 1995. In 2005, Charlene joined the staff at Delano Elementary School as a third grade teacher. She has also contributed professionally as an Adventure Club Teacher, After School Program Teacher, and Summer School Teacher in Delano.

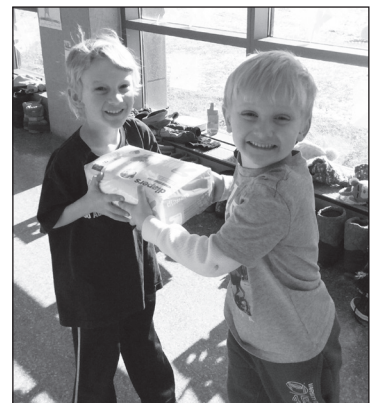
Charlene lives in Delano with her husband Mike. She has two grown daughters, Allison, who is pursuing her nursing degree at Augustana University in South Dakota and Kailyn, who is currently studying business at the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management.

### ***Kindergarten Diaper Drive Supports Local Families***

Each year during the month of February, DES Kindergarteners hold a Diaper Drive to support local families through Love Inc. and The Lullaby Ministry. With the enthusiasm of the students, families and community, this event was once again successful. The Kindergarteners collected 1,998 diapers and 3,248 wipes!

After the collection of these items, the students were eager to pass the diapers down the hallway and load them into cars for delivery to Love Inc. The Lullaby Ministry will deliver these donated items to families in need.

Thank you to the kindergarteners, their parents and all those individuals who donated to this wonderful cause. Giving back is an integral part of what we teach our students at Delano Public Schools.



## Sporting Academia

### DHS Math Team Completes 28th Season

The Math Team is considered a sport of the brain. It mentally challenges the cerebrum to calculate combinations of numbers and answer complex problems. The Math League is a national organization whose purpose is to create math contests that give students an educationally enriching opportunity to participate in an academically-oriented activity and to gain recognition for mathematical achievement. The Math Team is a mental sport, and participation in Delano has risen from an inaugural season of 16 participants to a high of 85 during the 2010-11 season.

The Tiger Math Team just completed its 28<sup>th</sup> season. The Tigers have placed 1<sup>st</sup> in their conference eleven times and 2<sup>nd</sup> nine times. Mathletes have participated in the Minnesota State Math Tournament sixteen times, with their best finish being 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 2016. This year there were 46 mathletes and 19 earned a Letter. Just like in athletics, students can earn a Letter per activity guidelines for their achievements during participation. Letters are determined by the number of points a mathlete scores during a season. During the Delano Math Team tenure, 58 mathletes have scored 40 or more points in a season. With 72 being a perfect score, Zach Muckenhirn attained a high score of 64 points in 2013. Zach also holds the career record of 242 points in his five year career. 1999 graduate Brian Jacobson holds the four year record with 196 points. Brian also holds the record for the highest individual state finish, finishing 8<sup>th</sup> at the state tournament in 1998.

The Delano Math Team's growth over the years proves that it is an enjoyable and challenging activity for the participants. Another added benefit is the increase in their academic potential. The math team has been a factor in the increased number of National Merit Scholars our school has gained, along with an increase in our students' ACT math average.

The Delano Math Team has been coached by Jerry Shouts, DHS math teacher, for all 28 seasons. He is assisted by Joe Vieau, former DHS math teacher and currently the Director of Teaching and Learning at Delano Public Schools.



## COMPASS Program Hosts Suicide Prevention Day

Suicide is the third leading cause of death for 15-24 year olds, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. Studies show that at least 90% of teens who kill themselves have some type of mental illness. Delano Public Schools goal is to educate students and help them realize they are not alone when thoughts of suicide occur.

The Delano COMPASS Program is a course at DHS that works on character building, mentoring, volunteering and academics for students who want to make positive changes in their lives. The COMPASS Program invited speaker Mr. Chad Harlander, Hutchinson's REACH (Relationships, Education, Accountability, Character, Hard-work) Program Director to address the students at DHS. Chad silenced the audience with his personal accounts of struggles as a teenager.

Through his stories he energized students to take negative experiences, grow from them, and use them to become a stronger, more resilient individual.

Thank you to The Christopher Benz Foundation, Highway 10 Baseball Classic, Crown Plastics Inc., Hutchinson REACH Program, Wright County MEADA and Wayzata High School Graphics Program for sponsoring this event. Preventing suicide begins with a sense of belonging, acceptance and education.



to



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**Delano, MN 55328**

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**Delano Public Schools Vision**  
*Systemic academic growth to promote  
educational excellence & continuous  
improvement for every learner in a  
digital society.*

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## Educational Excellence is Our Foremost Goal

Strategic Plan 2013-2018 Moving Forward...Learning for the Future



### Is Tutoring Young Readers in Your Future?

In Minnesota today, one in five third graders can't read at grade level. If these children don't catch up by the end of third grade, the odds are against them catching up in the future.

***Have you ever considered being a reading tutor?***

Angela Westlund and Sue Dehne hadn't, but when the opportunity arose, they jumped at the chance to make a difference in students' lives while expanding their personal knowledge and skills in reading literacy.

**What does a reading tutor do?** Minnesota Reading Corps (MRC) tutors provide extra support to students as they practice their reading skills. This program supplements the classroom language arts curriculum with the aim of increasing the reading fluency of every child they help. One second grader expressed, "I learn new words and then I know them when I read chapter books." "I like to learn new words and I remember them the next day!" shared a first grader. Both Angela and Sue feel that the most rewarding aspects of tutoring are individual reading instruction time and developing a relationship with each student.

Students in the program meet daily with MRC tutors who have been trained in the most current reading fluency intervention strategies. When working in the area of fluency, tutors work to achieve better word accuracy, expression and rate of the reader. Tutors track student progress and work closely with classroom teachers to insure success.

Along with Angela and Sue, **Delano Elementary School is looking to fill a third Minnesota Reading Corps full-time literacy tutor position to focus on kindergarten students for the 2017-2018 school year.** MRC is a program that provides trained literacy tutors for children from age three to third grade. Along with training, volunteers receive a \$500 bi-weekly stipend and up to \$5,500 in educational benefits. This is a statewide initiative to help every Minnesota child become a successful reader.

The Reading Corps program has proven so successful, DES is entering its tenth year helping students become successful readers! For more information, contact Lisa Downer, Basic Skills Teacher, at [lisa.downer@delanoschools.org](mailto:lisa.downer@delanoschools.org) or go to [www.minnesotareadingcorps.org](http://www.minnesotareadingcorps.org).

### DHS Theatre Department Presents...



Come enjoy the modern retelling of the classic Edmond Rostand story of Cyrano, "he with the long nose" who loves Roxanne, who in turn thinks she loves Christian. This vibrant musical is full of pop songs from the likes of Katy Perry, Bruno Mars, and The GoGos. *Cyrano De BurgerShack* is a musical for the entire family! Show times are:

Thursday, April 6	7 p.m.
Friday, April 7	7 p.m.
Saturday, April 8	1 p.m.

All performances will be held in the Delano Middle School auditorium. Tickets are available at the door.