

Eye of the Tiger

Recognized by Forbes Magazine and ZipRealty - #1 in the Nation for Top Performing Schools that Reside in a Community with Affordable Housing



Facilities Committee Works Toward Recommendation

In the last district newsletter I shared information with you regarding the formation of the Delano Public Schools Facilities Committee. At this time, I would like to update you on the progress that has been made thus far regarding the work of the committee. We have reviewed all baseline data regarding our facilities and program needs. We have also established an extensive list of our facility needs and have narrowed the focus on common themes regarding the needs of our facilities for the next 10 years, and established criteria to meet those requirements. Common themes that have been discussed are:

- Addressing capacity/space issues.
- Security; in particular our school entrances.
- Athletic and Performing Arts needs.
- Meeting technology needs in an educational setting.
- Maintaining the physical needs of our current buildings.



We will continue to develop preliminary diagrams of options to consider as solutions to our facility needs. We will then refine these options based on the criteria and make a recommendation to the school board with regards to a final option. The committee will also develop a recommended timeline for implementation of facility options.

All information that has been discussed at previous meetings and future meetings is posted on the district website as it becomes available. Log on to www.delano.k12.mn.us, click on District, and then Facilities Committee. Throughout this process, we continue to recognize that it takes a community to sustain educational excellence as our foremost goal.

**- Matthew W. Schoen, Ed.S.
Superintendent**

Upcoming Events at Delano Public Schools

December 2014

- | | | |
|-------|--|--------------|
| 1 | HS Jazz Band/Sound Revolution Concert | 7 pm |
| 2 | 7th/8th Grade Choir Concert | 7 pm |
| | MS Book Fair | 6:30-8:30 pm |
| 4 | 5th/6th Grade Choir Concert | 7 pm |
| | MS Book Fair | 6:30-8:30 pm |
| 8 | HS College Financial Aid Information Night | 7 pm |
| | MS Book Fair | 6:30-8:30 pm |
| 15 | 7th/8th Grade Band Concert | 7 pm |
| | MS Book Fair | 6:30-8:30 pm |
| | School Board Meeting | 5:45 pm |
| 18 | 5th/6th Grade Band Concert | 7 pm |
| | MS Book Fair | 6:30-8:30 pm |
| 22-31 | Winter Break - NO SCHOOL | |

January 2015

- | | | |
|-----|---|---------|
| 1-2 | Winter Break - NO SCHOOL | |
| 5 | School Resumes | |
| 12 | ECFE/SR Classes Resume | |
| 19 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL | |
| | ES Conferences & Book Fair | 12-8 pm |
| 22 | ES Conferences & Book Fair | 4-8 pm |
| 24 | Delano One Act Play Festival | |
| 26 | School Board Meeting | 5:45 pm |

All Band and Choir Concerts will be held in the Delano Performing Arts Center at Delano Middle School. Come hear the students share the sounds of the season!

Happy Holidays from Delano Public Schools!

Delano Community Education Implements Minnesota Reading Corps in Pre-K Programs

Research has shown that children need to know 10,000 to 12,000 words to be successful readers. Delano Community Education is excited to implement the Minnesota Reading Corps (MRC)/SEEDS of Early Literacy methods in our Wee Tiger Preschool and Tiger Kids Club Pre-K classrooms this year. This program is built around the "Big 5" learning opportunities: Conversation and Oral Language, Alphabetic Knowledge, Book and Print Rules, Phonological Awareness, and Vocabulary and Meaning.

During the 2013-14 school year, Delano Community Education served as a "comparison site" for a study done to measure the effectiveness of the Minnesota Reading Corps (MRC) pre-K program.

Community Education Director Diane Johnson expressed, "The study, which examined 26 MRC sites and 26 comparison sites in Minnesota, showed very significant differences between the MRC sites and the comparison sites in five foundational areas for reading preparation. The MRC sites reached the kindergarten readiness benchmark in all five areas, which are picture naming, letter naming, rhyming, letter sounds, and alliteration. The control sites, while showing improvement in all the areas, only reached the kindergarten readiness benchmark in the area of letter naming.

"The difference in the quantity and quality of children's early interactions and oral language experiences predict early school success."

- Dickenson & Tabors, 2001
- Hart & Risely, 1995



ECFE Program Manager Jane Shaffer said, "We were excited to be selected as an MRC site this year. Five of our teachers have received intensive training and all of our pre-K staff completed SEEDS of Early Literacy training. In addition, we have two part-time "MRC Community Corps" members who assist in our programs.

Our teachers are very enthusiastic about the impact these changes are having on our students already.

Tiger Kids Club teacher Mrs. Hall stated, "The impact of MRC has been great so far this year. My students have become more aware of print and understanding what words mean within a story. They are writing vocabulary words and love to sing the rhyming song. What my students like the most is *Think, Pair, Share*. This is when

they pair up with another child after I have given them a topic using one of our vocabulary words and they share a story."

Wee Tiger teacher Ms. Power shared, "My kids are three months ahead of where they were last year, and ten of them just turned three years old this summer. Their vocabulary has grown immensely. They are relating the words from the book to real life."

Wee Tiger teacher Mrs. Brasket expressed, "The kids love the vocabulary words and it seems one of their greatest joys is to beat me at the rapid flip thru of all the words. While we taught vocabulary in the past, MRC makes things different - we do "repetitive reading" - reading the same book for a week. The children learn about 15 new words per week, so they have learned well over 100 words so far this year."

Judy Reed who is both a preschool parent and one of our MRC Community Corps members stated, "My child's vocabulary has expanded and he tells me what the words mean. He understands the difference between rhyming and alliteration. He recognizes the vocabulary words in other places, like at the grocery store."

Children are assessed in the fall, winter, and spring in each of the five foundational areas. We are excited to see the results next spring, as our "graduating" students leave us well prepared.

- Diane Johnson, Community Education Director

The Pathway to Kindergarten: ECFE and School Readiness Programs in Delano



Delano Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) and School Readiness (SR) programs are here to provide family fun and learning to parents and their young children as they navigate the “pathway to kindergarten.”

ECFE recognizes that the first five years of a child’s life is exciting, fun, surprising, challenging, and rewarding. The mission of ECFE is to support parents in providing educational and developmental opportunities for their young children. ECFE classrooms are especially designed to meet the educational needs of young learners. Classes and events are held at the Delano Community Educational Center.

To meet the needs of preschoolers, Delano Wee Tiger Preschool and Tiger Kids Club pre-K programs provide educationally based preschool programs that meet Minnesota Parent Aware four star rating, which is the highest possible rating. This ensures a high quality education and care for children 3-5 years old. Both Wee Tiger Preschool and TKC pre-K are in the first year of implementing the Minnesota Reading Corps which promotes the development of language and literacy skills, which in turn supports the future success of students as they enter kindergarten.

Delano Community Education has much to celebrate!

- Community Education has existed in Minnesota for over 50 years
- ECFE has been active in Minnesota for 40 years and in Delano for 28 years
- School Readiness programs have been in Delano for 22 years
- Tiger Kids Club (formerly Kids Stop) has been in Delano for 25 years

“ECFE is a Great Way to Start Your Family’s Relationship with Delano Public Schools!”



- Jane Shaffer, ECFE Program Manager

WE Day Shifts World Focus from “Me” to “We”

Whether you are a student or an adult, you don’t need vast amounts of money or power to change the world. You just need a dream, inspiration, and the time to make things happen. WE Day did just that for several Delano High School students who took part in this life-changing event on Wednesday, November 12, at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.

As you can see by what is printed on the students’ shirts, “Bringing Out the Good” was the message worn and portrayed by 18,000 students representing 550 schools at WE Day Minnesota 2014. WE Day participants learned that they can inspire others by sharing a unique talent and/or skill. In other words, by sharing a gift to benefit a cause may be all it takes to bring about change in the world.

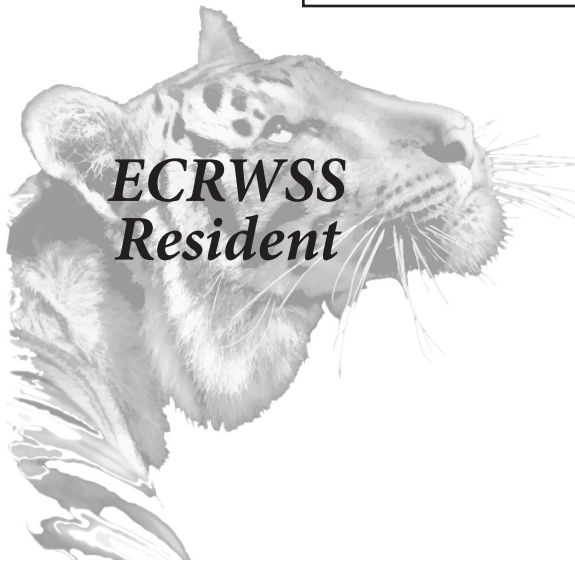
Speakers and performers at WE Day 2014 Minnesota included: Magic Johnson, Martin Sheen, The Band Perry, Colbie Caillat, Lt. Colonel Eileen Collins, JR Martinez, Kweku Mandela, and Craig and Marc Kielburger to name a few.



Free the Children, Me to We, We Act and WE Day all share the same goal: to empower a generation to shift the work from “me to “we” - from a focus on the individual to the power of community. When individuals combine the issues they care about with the talents that drive them, they are able to take their leadership to the next level. DHS students left WE Day feeling empowered and excited to keep bringing out the good in all those around them today and in the future!

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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

Veteran's Wall Dedicated at DHS



On Veteran's Day, Dr. John Sweet, Commander of Delano Legion Post 377 and Dr. Steve Heil, DHS Principal, dedicated the newly assembled Veteran's Wall that is in the Tiger Activity Center. This wall is dedicated to all Delano High School graduates that are currently serving our country in one of the five branches of military service. If your family member, friend, or someone you know deserves to be recognized for their current service, please contact Dr. Steve Heil at sheil@delano.k12.mn.us.

Community Education Preschool Programs Four Star Rated



Parent Aware is a statewide program that helps families find the quality care and education opportunities their children need to succeed in school and life. The Parent Aware Star Ratings which range from one to four stars, allow parents to easily identify child care and early education programs using research-based best practices to prepare children for kindergarten.

Wee Tiger Preschool and Tiger Kids Club pre-K programs have both received the highest rating from Parent Aware - Four Stars!

Because we are four star rated, parents with financial need, can access state Early Learning Scholarships to help with the cost of Wee Tiger Preschool and Tiger Kids Club pre-K programs.