



# Eye of the Tiger

District 879 Newsletter April-May 2019



**Orange Crush is headed to World competition.**

## At a glance

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Spring musical

## Dates to remember

### April

19.....Holiday break, no school  
22.....Weather make-up day  
22.....School board mtg., 7 p.m.  
25.....ES Art Fair, 5 p.m.  
26-27.....Spring musical, 7 p.m.

### May

1.....HS Senior Awards Night,  
2-3.....Spring musical, 7 p.m.  
4.....Tiger Dash, 8:30 and 9 a.m.  
4.....Spring musical, 1 p.m.  
6.....HS choir concert, 7:30 p.m.  
7.....Gr. 7-8 choir concert, 7 p.m.  
9.....Gr. 5-6 choir concert, 7 p.m.  
13.....HS PIE meeting, 6 p.m.  
13.....HS band concert, 7:30 p.m.  
14.....Gr. 7-8 band concert, 7 p.m.  
14.....ES PIE meeting, 7 p.m.  
20.....School board mtg., 7 p.m.  
21.....School board listening session, 7 p.m.  
21.....Gr. 5-6 band concert, 7 p.m.  
23.....Grade 1 concert, 6:30 p.m.  
24.....Grade 1 Grandparents Day  
**June**  
2.....Graduation, 1:30 p.m.  
5-7.....Weather make-up days



**Students met with colleges and businesses during SciTech on Tuesday, April 9.**

## SciTech builds connections

**By Paul Downer**  
Communications Coordinator

From job and internship openings to fun activities and interview tips, Delano High School students had plenty of opportunities to benefit from the sixth annual SciTech event on Tuesday, April 9.

A total of 29 colleges, technical schools, busi-

nesses, military recruiters and more shared what their organizations had to offer.

"We had a lot of businesses show up with actual job offers for seniors. Colleges came back with the names of students they had talked to in past years, so we pulled some students for them

**See SciTech**  
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## Financial update

### District preparing for the years ahead

**By Matthew Schoen**  
Superintendent

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the district's financial projections. Basically, we are entering into a new trend of graduating larger classes than incoming kindergarten classes. This creates a downward trend of student enrollment, and thus revenue adjustments come into play.

We believe this downward trend in student enrollment



will be temporary, over the next few school years, rather

than permanent. Yet, with this change in student enrollment, it is prudent for the district to make adjustments to be fiscally responsible. A decrease in revenue naturally requires adjustments on the expenditure side of the budget.

Our finance committee, made up of three school board members, is supporting a plan for administration to adjust

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# Orange Crush headed to Worlds

By Paul Downer  
Communications Coordinator

For the first time since the Orange Crush Robotics team was formed in 2009, the team has hoisted a regional championship banner.

Orange Crush was part of the three-team alliance that dominated the playoff rounds at the Minnesota 10,000 Lakes Regional March 27-30 to win the 63-team tournament and earn a place at the FIRST Robotics World Championship games in Detroit, Michigan, April 24-27.

Not bad for a 12-person group that entered the season with limited building and programming experience, and with new leadership.

"The pride I have in these students and what they have accomplished in this past year is honestly more than I can express," said Sue Duberstein, who co-coaches the team along with Brian Sevigny. "Back at the beginning of the season I would have never imagined we would have gotten this far, and that's a testament to what these students have done."

Russ Anderson, a mentor for the Greenbush Gators, a perennial powerhouse that



**The Orange Crush robotics team celebrates the first regional championship in the program's 10-year history.**

invited Delano into the championship alliance at the start of the playoff rounds, agreed with Duberstein.

"They are Minnesota's Cinderella story," he said of the Orange Crush members. "Be very, very proud of that team. For them to make it, it's a huge deal. They are just a great group of kids."

## **'Rookie team'**

Although Orange Crush has had some successes in

past years, including a wild card qualification for Worlds, a regional championship and resulting ticket to global competition had eluded team members in the past. With the program in rebuilding mode this season, expectations at the outset were fairly limited.

"We were pretty much a rookie team this year, so everybody just did what they had to do to make sure that the team got off the ground," said junior Trinity Reither, who served as

the team's media member in her first year in robotics. "We only had one person work on the robot before this year. The programmers were both brand new, so everybody had to learn

**'They are Minnesota's Cinderella story.'**

**Russ Anderson**

something new to help contribute. We also had very little funds, so we all had to fund-raise a lot more than usual."

Team members were hard at work preparing for Worlds in recent weeks, but were also taking time to appreciate the significance of what they have accomplished.

"Making it was a surprise for us because we were really starting a new chapter in our team's history this year," said freshman driver Jaxon Duberstein. "Starting off the year we were thinking pretty simple, but we were able to turn it into a lot more."

"It's been a lot of fun," said junior builder Brennan Slipka, one of the few experienced students on the team. "Probably the best year yet."

## SciTech

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to talk with again. That was a little different this year," said DHS Principal Dr. Steve Heil. "We're hoping to grow this where we have that good communication and help students make the connection to college and career. I knew it would take a few years to get to that point, and we're starting to see that now."

As an example of the opportunities at the site, Heil pointed out that several students who had expressed interest in trades were connected with a construction business offering a three-week summer course in carpentry, plumbing and the



**Students look over displays from the Wright Technical Center during SciTech on April 9.**

electrical field.

"You spend three weeks of your summer, they teach you

about it, and then you have a better idea if you'll like it or not. I think that's good," said

Heil. "And they're not just looking for construction people. They're looking for business people and finance people. They're looking for their whole businesses."

A pair of local businesses brought extra employees to help teach students what they look for during the interview process, "so it is becoming more educational for our kids too," said Heil.

While the size of the event was intentionally kept smaller over the past two years during school construction, Heil said he hopes to see SciTech expand in the years ahead.

"It's a good day," he said. "It opens up doors for our kids."



# Pennies to \$10,000

Members of the seventh- and eighth-grade Student Council count up coins on Thursday, March 28, at the close of the Pennies for Patients campaign. As a whole, Delano High School raised a new school record of \$10,002.52. The goal for the year was to crack \$10,000 for the first time. Thank you to students, families and the Delano community for your generosity.



## Math, reading tutors sought for 2019-20

Delano Elementary and Delano Intermediate are both seeking tutors for the next school year.

The elementary is seeking two Minnesota Reading Corps tutors, and the intermediate is seeking two Minnesota Math Corps tutors.

Tutors work with students during school hours throughout the school year. Whether you're a recent grad, career changer, stay-at-home parent or retiree, you can make a great tutor.

No experience? No problem. Tutors receive great training, so they are well-equipped to help students grow.

Part-time and full-time positions are available. Tutors commit to serving 35, 25,



**Reading tutors at DES this year were, from left, Rhonda Lemmon, Sue Dehne and Stephanie Wu. DIS math tutor opportunities are new beginning in 2019-20.**

or 18 hours a week throughout the school year. Opportunities begin in August 2019.

### *Perks for tutors*

- Build your skills, network, and resume.
  - Receive a paid stipend every two weeks.
  - Earn up to \$4,200 for college tuition or student loans. Tutors 55 and older may gift the award to their child, grandchild, stepchild or foster child.
  - Free health insurance and child care assistance for those who qualify.
- Ready to be the change for struggling students? Learn more at [ReadingAndMath.net](http://ReadingAndMath.net).

Questions can be sent to [join@serve-togrow.org](mailto:join@serve-togrow.org), or call 866.859.2825.

## Announcements

### *Volunteer at Delano schools*

Whether you have just a few hours a year or several a month, there is no shortage of opportunities to share your skills and interests at Delano Public Schools. Volunteers are invaluable contributors to the success of our students and make a positive impact on the school and community.

Last year volunteers contributed more than 8,000 hours in a variety of roles, such as classroom helpers, site base committee members and chaperones. Not sure what role interests you? Find additional information and descriptions on the Delano Public Schools website. For more information, or to register as a volunteer, visit [www.delano.k12.mn.us/district/school-services/volun](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us/district/school-services/volun) or call 763.972.3365, ext. 1912.

### *Notify school of address changes*

Moving? Changing schools? If your family is moving out of the school district, whether or not your students will continue attending Delano Public Schools next year, please notify the school

office at 763-972-6200 for DES, 763-972-7602 for DIS, or 763-972-7601 for DHS. This information is vital for class assignments and staffing needs for the 2019-20 school year.

### *Weather make-up days*

Extreme weather has resulted in the cancellation of five school days this year, and make-up days will be in effect. Dates when school was canceled due to weather included Jan. 29-31, Feb. 20 and April 11.

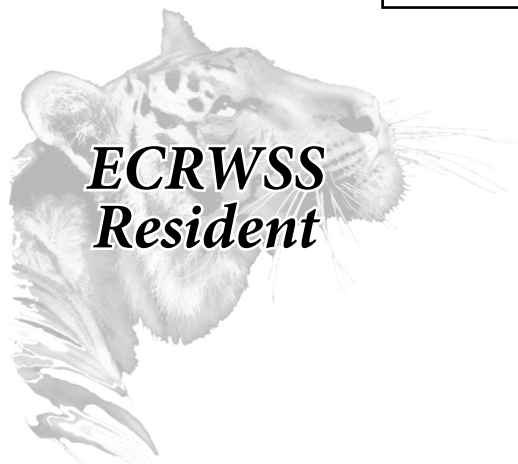
Make-up days set before the beginning of the school year included Monday, Feb. 18, and Monday, April 22. In addition, three days have been added to the end of the school year, so class will be in session through Friday, June 7.

Additional days will be added to the end of the school year, if necessary, during the remainder of the year.

A sixth canceled day that will not be made up, due to highly unusual circumstances, is the Feb. 8 closure due to a heating problem in the high school. Staff members did report for work that day.

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

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### **Delano Public Schools Vision**

*Systemic academic growth to promote educational excellence and continuous improvement for every learner in a digital society.*

### **2019 Board of Education**

Mark Larson, Chair  
 Lisa Seguin, Vice Chair  
 Corey Black, Clerk  
 Amy Johnson, Treasurer  
 Al Briesemeister, Director  
 Rachel Depa, Director  
 Jennie Rosenow, Director

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

### **Schoen**

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our budget over the next several fiscal years in order to maintain the appropriate fund balance.

The bottom line is that we need to tighten our belt a little bit, based on updated budget forecasts. As stated before, this will be done proactively and incrementally over the next several years in order for the district to maintain and support our educational programs in the most fiscally responsible manner.

We will continue to monitor our student enrollment and projected revenues over the next several months and years, and will make adjustments as appropriate.

### ***Strategic plan update***

As stated in my previous article, the district is in the midst of making adjustments to its strategic plan as we embark on the second half of a

10-year continuous improvement process. Our goal overall is to make adjustments to the strategic plan that will optimize the opportunity for our schools and programs to improve and establish new benchmarks for educational excellence.

We have completed the feedback portion of our haltime process and have gathered valuable data to inform adjustments to our current strategic work plans. This data will also help in setting priorities for the next five years.

The next step in our haltime process will be for leadership teams to analyze the feedback data, along with survey data, to begin establishing adjustments to our strategic plan. After this work is completed the school board will provide additional feedback from the governance level.

Over the next two months we will complete this six-month process, culminating with board approval of the updated plan.

**DELANO DRAMA PRESENTS:**

**Disney's**  
**HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL**  
**ON STAGE**

at the  
**DELANO PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

<b>Students</b> <b>\$5</b>	<b>APR 26</b> <b>7PM</b>	<b>APR 27</b> <b>7PM</b>	<b>MAY 2</b> <b>7PM</b>	<b>MAY 3</b> <b>7PM</b>	<b>MAY 4</b> <b>1PM</b>
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**Adults**  
**\$7**

Tickets available online at: [delano.k12.mn.us](http://delano.k12.mn.us)