



# Eye of the Tiger

District 879 Newsletter December 2018-January 2019

## At a glance

### Page 2

DHS grand opening  
Educator awards

### Page 3

Town deputy office  
Announcements

### Page 4

Milano leaving board

## Dates to remember

### December

17.....School board mtg., 7 p.m.

17...Gr. 7-8 band concert, 7 p.m.

24-31.....Winter break

### January

1.....Winter break

7.....Registration for 7th grade  
info meeting at 5 p.m., for 9th  
grade at 6:15 p.m., college  
credit in high school at 7:30 p.m.

10.....College credit in high  
school at 5 p.m.; registration for  
7th grade info meeting at 6:15

p.m., for 9th grade at 7:30 p.m.

8.....ES PIE meeting, 7 p.m.

14.....HS PIE, 6 p.m.

21.....Martin Luther King  
Jr. Day, no school

21.....DES Conferences and  
book fair, noon-8 p.m.

21..DIS conferences, noon-7 p.m.

22.....DIS conferences, 4-8 p.m.

24.....DES conferences and  
book fair, 4-8 p.m.



See Page 3 for the story about an innovative town deputy office at DHS that is attracting statewide attention.



Students and community members attended a grand opening ceremony for the high school on Nov. 8, just prior to the first event in the new Performing Arts Center.

## Time to shift the focus

### Ending construction, planning for the future

By Matthew Schoen  
Superintendent

The purpose of this article is to give you a final update with regard to our building projects, and explain our shift in focus to reviewing and updating our strategic plan for the next five years.

The last building project in our high school is the completion of the new locker rooms located on the north side of the Tiger Activity Center. These locker rooms will be completed by the end of the month, and the district will be able to utilize this space after the winter break.

The completion of this last project brings three-plus years of construction on our campus to a close. This has been a momentous effort that has resulted in the improvement of our campus



and our buildings for students, staff and community members.

The remainder of our building project work will be to complete punch list items and facilitate 11-month walk-throughs per warranties with our contractors. The bottom line is that in the remainder of 2019 the district will be addressing any items that need to be corrected within the project by our contractors.

### Strategic plan

Commencing this month, the school district will be facilitating a review of its strategic plan. You may recall that five years ago the school district facilitated a strategic planning process that established a road map for the district to continue to grow and meet the needs of our students with regards to educational excellence. We are now at the halfway point of a 10-year strategic plan.

Between December 2018 and June 2019, the district will facilitate a complete review and update of the four main components of our

See Schoen  
Page 2

# Schoen

from Page 1

strategic plan: facilities, professional development, curriculum and technology. This halftime review of our strategic plan will update the four components to meet the vision of the school district that was established in the summer of 2013. Delano Public Schools' vision is to facilitate "systemic academic growth to promote educational excellence and continuous improvement for every learner in a digital society."

The update of our strategic plan for the next five years will include multiple venues of stakeholder feedback, both within the community and internally within the district organization. Our goal is to present an updated version of our strategic plan for review and approval by our school board in June of 2019.

This is an extremely important process, as it will culminate in establishing a road map for our entire district to maintain and improve in academic excellence. I will provide more detailed information in future district newsletter articles.

I wish you all a very happy holiday.



## DHS grand opening night

A grand opening ceremony was held for Delano High School on Thursday, Nov. 8, marking the near endpoint of construction. The evening included a ribbon cutting by students, a flag-raising program amidst driving snow by the Delano Legion, speeches, the presentation of building plaques, and more. The ceremonies were followed by Faculty Follies, the first performance in the new Performing Arts Center. Construction should be complete in December.



## Leaders in Educational Excellence honored

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

The four included second-grade teacher Nate Uselding, DIS speech clinician Mary Somers, DHS School Within A School instructor Shallyn Tordeur, and DHS social worker Marie Techam, who attended as Delano's 2017-18 Teacher of the Year.

Their Leadership in Educational Excellence Awards were distributed at the 27th annual Award and Recognition Ceremony hosted by Resource Training & Solutions on Wednesday, Oct. 24.

Uselding is in his fifth



**Nate Uselding**

year of teaching in Delano after changing careers from soil science and the turf industry.

"I was blown away when I learned that my peers nominated me for this award, and I want to thank them for helping me be successful in teaching," Uselding said. "Receiving the LEEA Award is a great honor. Ultimately, I want students to



**Mary Somers**



**Shallyn Tordeur**

love learning as much as I embrace teaching."

Somers has been an educator in Delano for 30 years.

"I really enjoy getting to know my students and watching them develop new skills that help them to express themselves," she said.

Tordeur has worked in the education field for 15 years,



**Marie Techam**

including 12 in Delano.

"I have the privilege of working each day with some of the most unique and creative kids," she said. "My job is never dull and I couldn't see myself doing anything different."

Techam is in her 12th year at Delano, and 19th overall.

"Our district employees overall are so dedicated to helping students and go above and beyond to give students a quality education," she said. "To be a school social worker getting this honor, it truly is a testament to the teachers and how much they value all areas of helping students."

• For more information, see [www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us).



# Town deputies take up residence at DHS

**By Paul Downer**  
Communications Coordinator

An innovative arrangement between Delano Public Schools and the Wright County Sheriff's Office has led to an increased deputy presence on campus during and outside of regular school hours.

The sheriff's office contracts with the city of Delano to provide police services, and this fall the deputies assigned to Delano moved their office location from the Delano fire hall to the high school.

"We have always had an excellent working relationship with the Wright County Sheriff's Office," said Delano Superintendent Matt Schoen. "This partnership further exemplifies the willingness of the school district, the city and the county sheriff's department to work together to maintain the safest learning environment for our schools."

The idea to base town deputies in the school, augmenting the full-time presence of School Resource Officer Shane Hegarty, originated in conversations among Hegarty, district leaders and outside safety



**From left, School Resource Officer Shane Hegarty, Lt. Eric Kunkel, Superintendent Matt Schoen and DHS Principal Steve Heil mark the official opening of the town deputy office at Delano High School with a plaque made by a DHS shop class.**

consultants last year. The city was "completely supportive of the idea in the spirit of school safety," Schoen said, as were law enforcement leaders.

"The Wright County Sheriff's Office welcomes new and innovative ways to address school safety in this ever-changing climate regarding school violence," said Hegarty and SRO supervisor Sgt. Eric Leander in a joint statement. "The new office provides an additional layer of protection for staff and students."

While deputies are often out on patrol, the office gives

them a place to write reports, print documents, organize evidence, handle digital media and case files, meet with other area deputies and take breaks. Marked patrol vehicles parked outside create a more visible law enforcement presence, and the office is available for deputies 24 hours a day, giving the school campus additional coverage during evening events and overnight hours.

Additional benefits include more frequent positive contact between officers and students, which helps build familiarity and trust. The presence of dep-

uties also allows for reduced response time to on-campus incidents, and for closer cooperation between the SRO and patrol officers.

"The new office comes at no additional expense and is a win-win for everyone involved," said Hegarty and Leander. "To our knowledge, there is nothing within the state achieving this level of cooperation between school, law enforcement and city."

Schoen confirmed that there was no additional cost to the district, and that the arrangement, as far as is known, is unique in Minnesota. Interest from other districts and agencies has been substantial, however, and the model of cooperation could spread.

"Delano has done a lot of things over the last school year that a lot of school districts are copying," Leander told visitors at a recent listening session held by the Delano School Board. "I've had several superintendents and principals say, 'Why didn't we think of this sooner?' ... I've had phone calls asking how we're doing it and how they can do it. It is attracting statewide attention."

## Announcements

### *School closing information*

School may be closed for the day, start late or dismiss early due to weather conditions, emergencies, utility outages or other conditions that threaten the health and/or safety of our students and staff.

Families will be notified by the school district's instant parent contact system for emergency school closings.

The following news media outlets will also be notified: WCCO 4 TV, KSTP 5 TV, KMSP 9 TV and KARE 11 TV.

Families are encouraged to have a plan in place for their students when emergency closings, late starts or early dismissals occur. Watch for calendar changes and possible make-up days due to school closings communicated via school publications, Skylert parent emails, phone calls, the district website, Facebook and Twitter.

If you would like to receive a text message, you must set this option up in your family access account. Log into your account and on the left, click on Skylert. You can list your phone number under "Text Message Numbers" and check the categories for which you want this option applied. Then click "Save."

### *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.

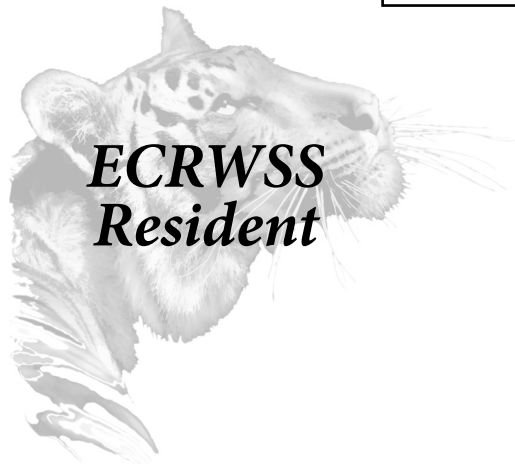
For more information, or to register as a volunteer, visit [www.delano.k12.mn.us/district/school-services/volun](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us/district/school-services/volun) or call 763.972.3365, ext. 1912.

### *Earlier Kindergarten Round-up*

District families should take note that Kindergarten Roundup will be a month earlier this school year, taking place in February rather than March. The dates are Tuesday and Thursday, Feb. 19 and 21, 2019.

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

**Nonprofit Organization**  
**U.S. Postage**  
**PAID**  
**Delano, MN 55328**  
**Permit #13**



### **Delano Public Schools Vision**

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

### **2018 Board of Education**

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

**Eye of the Tiger** is published by Delano Public Schools, 700 Elm Avenue East, Delano, MN, 55328. Editor, Paul Downer, Communications Coordinator, 763.972.3365, ext. 1911, [paul.downer@delanoschools.org](mailto:paul.downer@delanoschools.org)

### **Follow us online at:**



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

### **Delano School Board**

# **Milano steps away after 12 years of service**

**By Paul Downer**  
Communications Coordinator

When the calendar page turns over to 2019, the longest-serving current member of the Delano School Board will step away from a position she held for 12 years.

Carolyn Milano decided not to seek re-election for the first time since she was originally voted into office in the fall of 2006. Her seat on the board will be filled by newcomer Jennie Rosenow, who was the top vote-getter in last month's election.

"It has truly been an enlightening and exceptional experience for me," said Milano, explaining that she sought the office because she wanted to be involved. "I care about children and their parents; I care about the educators in our district and about the future direction



**Carolyn Milano**

of the Delano public school district, which is the bedrock of our community."

From beginning to end, Milano dealt with facilities needs. Inadequate space was a problem when she joined the board in 2007, and each of the district's buildings needed

updates. That year a levy was approved to run a new building, but funds for the building itself were not approved. In 2008 a land purchase for the new building was approved, and in 2015 the referendum was passed to construct the intermediate school, as well as upgrade the rest of the campus.

"I'm blessed that I was able to tangibly contribute and see this entire improvement process and project come to fruition," said Milano. "That was one of the major reasons I stayed on the board as long as I did."

Aside from the school building efforts, Milano said she was especially passionate about her work with Schools for Equity in Education, and in "being an empathetic voice for all students."

"I can say, without reservation, that all of my ideas, deci-

sions and votes always put the students first and foremost," Milano said.

Of course Milano did not serve alone, and she was grateful for those who worked alongside her.

"I want to thank all the current and past board members that I have had the pleasure to serve with. I appreciate each and every one of you," she said.

Milano also thanked current Superintendent Matt Schoen and former Superintendent Dr. John Sweet for their leadership and kindness, and Business Manager Mary Reeder for her support in explaining complicated budgets and funding formulas.

In closing, she urged others to step up and give back as well.

"I encourage you ... to get involved and advocate for the future of our kids," she said.