



Eye of the Tiger

District 879 Newsletter October-November 2018

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Dates to remember

October

24.....Unity Day
24.....IS PIE, 6 p.m.
31...Halloween parade, 1:45 p.m.

November

2.....End of HS Quarter 1
4.....Daylight Saving Time ends
6.....Election day, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
9.....DHS grand opening, 6 p.m.
9.....Faculty Follies, 7 p.m.
10.....Armadillos show, 7:30 p.m.
11.....PAC concerts, 11 a.m.
12...Vets Day program, 9:30 a.m.
12.....HS PIE, 6 p.m.
13.....ES PIE, 7 p.m.
19.....Financial aid night, 7 p.m.
21-23.....Thanksgiving break
28.....End of ES Trimester 1



Community members are welcome to attend the annual Veterans Day program at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 12, in the Tiger Activity Center. A shuttle bus will depart from the Legion to the school at 8:55 a.m.



Members of the Delano Legion conducted a flag-raising ceremony prior to a public open house and ribbon cutting at Delano Intermediate School on Sept. 25.

Finish line is in sight

By Matthew Schoen
Superintendent

First, I would like to thank all the members of our community that attended the Delano Intermediate School open house. We had approximately 180 people attend the event, which included a flag-raising ceremony and a ribbon cutting by our students. In addition, people were given the opportunity to walk around the entire school on self-guided tours.



High school construction

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on projects that have come to completion at the high school. Work on the diving well and family locker rooms was finished last month, much to the enthusiasm of our swimming and diving community. Our Performing Arts Center is scheduled to be completed by the end of October.

I would like to formally invite all community members to our open house ceremony for the high school on Friday, Nov. 9, commencing with a flag-raising ceremony at 6 p.m. A brief ceremony will follow, along with self-guided tours and the Faculty Follies performance in the PAC at 7 p.m.

In addition, the new locker rooms located on the north end of the Tiger Activity Center will be completed in December. This will mark the completion of our three-year district construction project. Of course there will still be a multitude of checklists to review, and several mechanical systems will be commissioned throughout the district over the next 12 months.

Safety grant received

I am pleased to announce that Delano High School received a state grant worth \$385,000 for security upgrades. This past session the Legislature passed and the governor approved \$25 million in grant monies for the state. Delano Public Schools appreciates the opportunity to use these grant dollars for enhanced security systems and facility upgrades. The district will continue to

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Walsh presents 'Say Yes to No'

Nov. 5 workshop aims to help parents set healthy limits

All area parents and guardians are invited to a special workshop focused on setting healthy limits for children at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 5, in the Delano Elementary cafeteria.

Thanks to a United Way grant, the event is free.

Erin Walsh, M.A., is a dynamic, knowledgeable speaker on topics related to brain development and digital media. In Delano, Walsh will present "Say Yes to No: Parenting Kids for Success in the 21st Century."



Erin Walsh

About the presentation

It isn't always easy to determine limits for children.

This workshop will explore why limits are critical to their healthy development and

identify practical strategies for setting boundaries in ways that help kids manage big feelings, build self control, and understand their impact upon others. Using stories, warmth and humor, Walsh will facilitate a session where parents can add to their toolkit. Participants will:

- Be able to explain the basic pillars of a child's brain development.
- Recognize that trends in society and culture have a critical impact on children's development.
- Understand why self-discipline is so important for children's success and happiness.

• Explore the three myths of self-esteem and strategies for nurturing the "real deal."

• Contrast effective praise with ineffective praise.

• Explain parenting strategies that foster self-discipline and respect in children.

We hope you can join us for this educational and informative night.

Walsh was instrumental to the development of the MediaWise movement and enjoyed working with her father for 10 years at the National Institute on Media and the Family before creating Mind Positive Parenting in 2010.

Delano schools earn MCA honors

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

When 2018 Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments testing data was released this fall, Delano's three schools each earned honors under the Minnesota's new North Star accountability system.

Those honors mean that the schools performed among the top 5 percent in the state in various areas. The elementary excelled in math progress, the middle school in multiple categories of reading progress, and the high school in multiple categories of four-year graduation rate.

Both locally and statewide, overall proficiency levels were lower than in 2017. Delano posted record highs in its own reading and science proficiency last year, so while overall local proficiency dropped somewhat in 2018, the district still far exceeded the state averages in math, reading and science.

"2018 was a very good year

of MCA testing for Delano Public Schools," said Joe Vieau, director of teaching and learning for the district. "It was not necessarily unexpected to see a bit of a decline from 2017, which was an amazing year for us. We will be examining these results and deciding how to best incorporate this information into our continuous improvement model."

At the district level, Delano had a proficiency rate of 79.5 percent in math in 2018, a drop from 82.2 percent in 2017. However, the state proficiency rate was just 57 percent.

Delano's overall reading proficiency was 76.8 percent, slightly less than last year's record-high 78.4 percent, but still well ahead of the state's 60.3 proficiency rate.

In science, Delano's 66.5 percent proficiency rate comfortably led the state's 52.2 percent rate, though it was a 1.5 percent drop from the previous year's high-water mark.

For more information, see bit.ly/DelanoMCA.



The 650-seat Performing Arts Center is nearly complete.

DHS grand opening

The grand opening of Delano High School's Performing Arts Center and renovated spaces is approaching, and a full weekend of entertainment has been planned.

On Friday, Nov. 9, the Delano Legion will conduct a flag raising at 6 p.m., and a brief ribbon-cutting program for the entire renovated high school will be held at 6:15 p.m. Faculty Follies begins at 7 p.m., and visitors can take self-guided building tours until 9 p.m.

One of Central Minnesota's most popular bands, The

Fabulous Armadillos, will present "Stadium Rock: AC/DC to Zeppelin and everything in between," at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 10. Due to the band's large regional following, Delano Public Schools urges area residents to seek tickets early through the school district's website.

On Sunday afternoon, Nov. 11, the facility will host a school and community arts showcase and open house. High school ensembles will perform, along with the Delano Community Band.

Delano School Board Four seats up for election on Nov. 6

District residents will have an opportunity to elect four school board members to four-year terms Tuesday, Nov. 6.

Five candidates have filed for office, including Lani Brown-Worley, Jennie Rose-now and incumbents Corey Black, Mark Larson and Lisa Seguin. The filing period opened July 31 and closed Aug. 14.

Current board member Carolyn Milano is not seeking re-election.

Those elected will join sitting members Amy Johnson, Al Briesemeister and Rachel Depa on the school board beginning in January of 2019.

Where do I vote?

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day.

The combined polling places for this election and the precincts served by those polling places are as follows:

Corcoran City Hall
Delano City Hall
Franklin Township Hall
Greenfield City Hall
Independence City Hall
Loretto City Hall
Medina City Hall
Minnetrista City Hall
Rockford Township Hall
Woodland Township Hall

For more specific information on polling places based on your address, as well as sample ballots, see <https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us>.

Wuerger a National Merit semifinalist

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

DHS senior Gretchen Wuerger has been named a semifinalist in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program, and four additional Delano seniors have been named Commended Scholars.

About 16,000 national semifinalists represent just 1 percent of roughly 1.6 million high school juniors who entered the program by taking the 2017 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

"I knew it was a possibility when I took the test, but I didn't think I would actually get it," said Wuerger. "It was really cool to find out."

There are 34,000 national Commended Scholars, who along with the semifinalists represent the top 50,000 students in the nation based on



Gretchen Wuerger

the test. However, Commended Scholars are not considered for National Merit Scholarships. Commended Scholars from Delano include Danielle Gould, Lucius Lafromboise, Lydia Ramstad and Samson Streachek.

See www.delano.k12.mn.us for a more complete story on Delano's honorees.

Announcements

Fall play features Shakespeare

Thirty-seven Shakespeare plays in 90 minutes? Yep, that's right. Over 60 Delano High School students are preparing their fall play, "The Complete Works of Shakespeare [Abridged]," the first theatrical production to take place in the new Performing Arts Center.

Shows begin at 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Nov. 15-17, and at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18.

This physical, fast-paced, hilarious comedy parodies all of the Shakespeare plays, mainly focusing on "Romeo and Juliet," "Othello," "Hamlet" and the comedies. The show operates on many levels and aims to educate and entertain audiences of all ages. Tickets will be available Nov. 1 at www.delano.k12.mn.us.

Clothing drive for veterans

Delano Public Schools is conducting its third annual clothing drive for veterans in need. The drive begins Monday, Oct. 22, and

ends Thursday, Nov. 15. All clothing must be newly purchased, with the exception of gently used coats. Donations will be accepted in all district buildings.

"Our district has been very generous and supportive in the past," said Ginny Schuelke, who organizes the effort with Karla Otterness. "Over the past two years, we have donated approximately \$10,000 worth of clothing."

The donated items will be given to the St. Cloud Veterans Affairs Hospital to assist with veterans' needs. These veterans, many of whom are homeless at admission, typically are hospitalized for 60 to 90 days. When they are well enough for discharge, the hospital staff works to ensure that their basic needs are met.

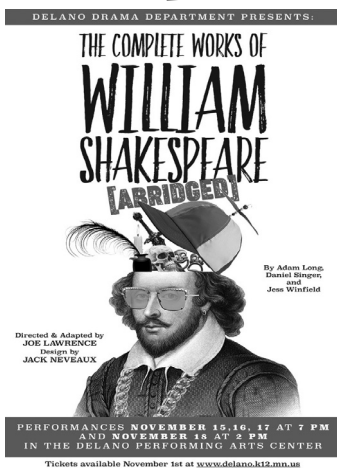
This year's drive will also support the Community Resource and Referral Center of Minneapolis, which serves homeless veterans who live on the streets of Minneapolis.

Please consider donating some of the following items:

Clothing: Socks, boxers, T-shirts, sweatshirts, jeans (waist 32-38, length 32-34), hats and gloves, winter coats, shower shoes (size L to XXL) and tennis shoes.

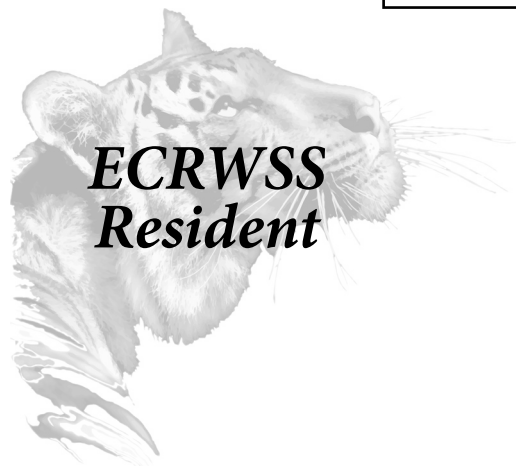
Personal hygiene items: One-gallon plastic zip lock bags, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, soap, shampoo, small packages of personal cleaning wipes, Q-tips, razors and shaving cream, and hand lotion.

Monetary donations may be made by writing a check to Delano Public Schools and writing "VA Clothing Drive" in the memo line. Donated funds will be used to purchase winter coats.



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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.

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

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Educational Excellence is Our Foremost Goal

'Rewards' aid schools

The MORE School Rewards program put on by Coborn's, Inc. netted \$3,874 for Delano Public Schools during the 2017-18 school year.

Delano High School received \$1,327, Delano Middle School received \$1,150, and Delano Elementary School received \$1,397 from Store Director Joe Tipka during a recent presentation.

To participate in 2018-19 and help support the schools, first designate your preferred school (DHS, DIS or DES) by logging into moreRewards.com or the MORE Rewards mobile app.

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

The points your school earns will increase its



Coborn's Store Director Joe Tipka, center rear, recently presented MORE School Rewards checks to school administrators. In front, from left, are DHS Principal Steve Heil and Superintendent Matt Schoen. On either side of Tipka in the second row are DES Principal Darren Schuler, left, and DIS Principal Barry Voight, right.

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.

Schoen

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make adjustments and upgrades to our security systems in all of our school buildings as well.

In addition, I am pleased to announce that our partnership with the Wright County Sheriff's Office has come to fruition regarding the relocation of our town deputies to the high school. It is my understanding this is the first ever partnership with a law enforcement agency of its kind. We are excited to have these types of partnerships that result in a safer learning environment for our students, staff and community members.

Strategic plan

The four work plans that make up our strategic roadmap are in the process of review and implementation for the fifth year of our strategic planning journey.

We will begin mapping out the next five years during this school year as well. We will facilitate the process of receiving feedback from our community members, students and staff via survey later on this fall. This information, along with multiple meetings at the committee level and staff level, will drive the direction of educational excellence for the next five years.